Volume XXXXVI Number 15
A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY January 27, 2006

# The Spectator

*"Older than the New York Times"*

ECEIVED
N 3 1 2006
COLLE

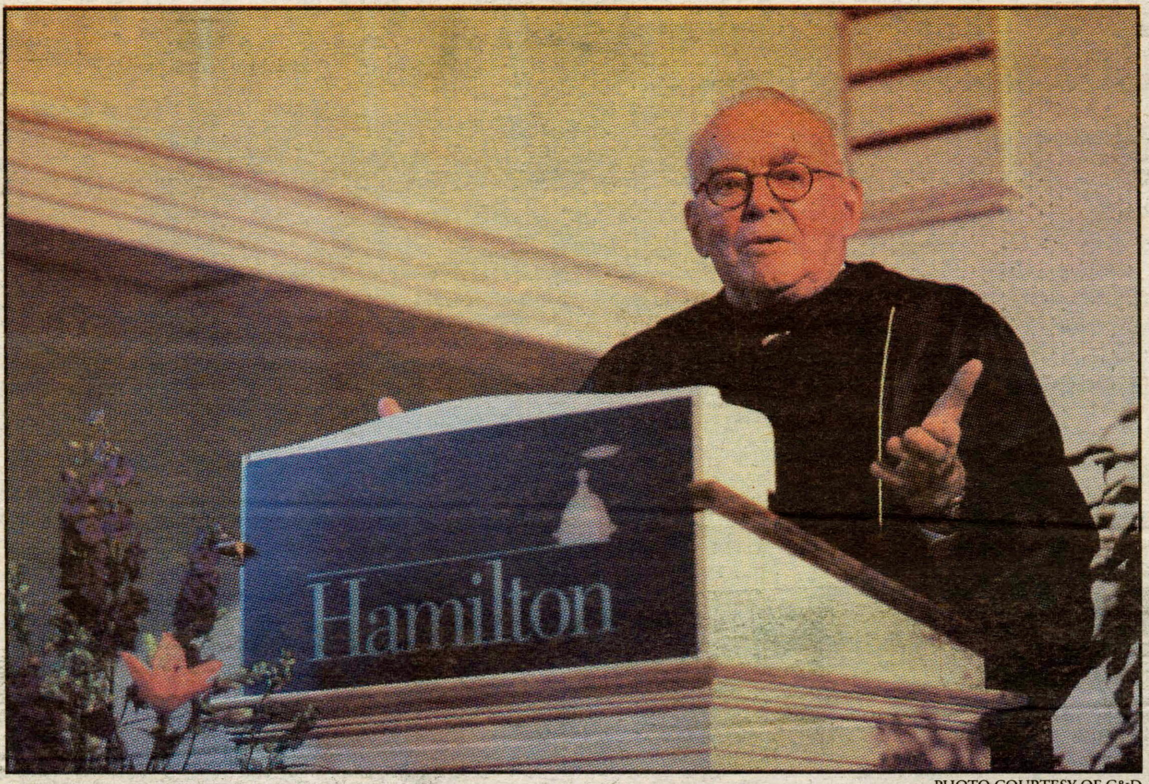


PHOTO COURTESY OF C&D

**Richard Couper spoke at Class & Charter Day in 2004 about Hamilton College history.**

# Life Trustee Dick Couper '44 passes

**by Caitlin Rochford '06**
*News Editor*

Hamilton College Trustee Richard W. Couper '44, a longtime supporter of the College and friend of the community, passed away on Wednesday, January 25, 2006. Couper had served as a life trustee since 1967. He and his wife of 59 years, Patsy, were well known on campus for their generosity and selflessness.

Couper was born in Binghamton, New York, and came to Hamilton College with the Class of 1944. Couper left Hamilton to join the military, spent three and a half years serving overseas and was promoted to Captain in the United States Army. He then returned to Hamilton and graduated with the class of 1947. Couper was a Greek and history major and he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with honors. One year later, he received his Master of Arts in American History from Harvard University.

Couper then returned to Binghamton, where he served as an associate for the firm Nelson Wadsworth and Alexander and its successor Couper Ackerman Sampson, Inc. In 1962 Hamilton College invited him back as the College's first administrative Vice President and he accepted. Following that position, Couper served as Vice President,

*see **Couper**, page 2*

# Adler Conference topic announced

**by Ian Mandel '06**
*Senior Editor*

The 2006 Adler Conference is more than two months away, but co-chairs Sarah Patterson'08 and Chip Smith '08 are already working hard on the logistics of the annual student-run conference. Titled "Diamond in the Buff... and Blue: Optimizing Hamilton's Educational Environment," this year's conference will provide students, faculty, administrators and staff with a forum to address a variety of topics surrounding the academic climate at Hamilton.

"We wanted to stress that it was optimizing and not improving because there are things that are great here, but even the greatest things could be made better," Patterson explained.

Patterson and Smith both hope the Hamilton community will come together and find ways to improve the experience at Hamilton.

"The Adler Conference provides a forum to talk amongst yourselves and really address some of the issues that we think can be optimized or maybe just talk about different options," Smith explained. "We may come to the conclusion that what we have is the best."

The Adler Conference is traditionally entirely student-run, a quality Patterson and Smith believe will be beneficial in generating meaningful discussion.

"I think that actually offers a unique perspective on things because it forces the students to step up and say, 'this seems to be an issue that needs to be addressed,' but then work with the administration, faculty and staff to decide

*see **Adler**, page 3*

# *Diversity initiatives a success*

**by Emma Furman '07**
*Editor-in-chief*

At the beginning of the 2004-2005 academic year the College announced a new plan to help increase diversity, as well as awareness regarding diversity, on campus. Hamilton has continued to make progress on these initiatives and has introduced several new ones this academic year. The College's diversity efforts consist of a variety of different steps and measures including Hamilton's participation in several diversity oriented conferences and consortiums, increased recruiting tactics for a more diverse faculty and student body, the establishment of a Diversity Initiatives fund and diversity workshops and training for students, faculty, staff and administrators.

Associate Dean of the Faculty Kirk Pillow is helping to coordinate the diversity initiatives. According to Pillow, the College has distinct goals in mind: "We want to have an educational community at Hamilton that is welcoming of the diversity of the American population as well as reflective of the diversity of our international students. We want that diversity to contribute to an educational environment in which all of our students thrive and are prepared to function as involved citizens in a democracy."

"[Our goal] is to increase the diversity of our community on campus with regards to representation of different groups," he added.

The College has taken a number of steps so far to encourage di-

*see **Diversity**, page 4*

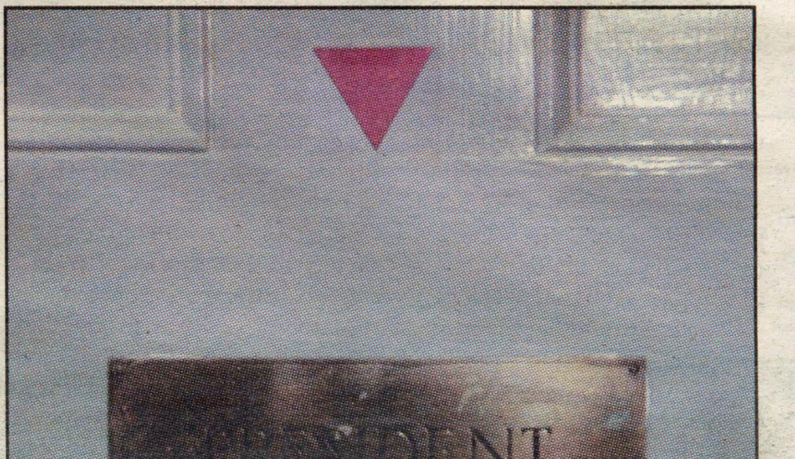


PHOTO BY DAN WITTENBERG '07

**President Stewart hangs a pink triangle on her door to symbolize a "Safe Zone."**

# Ambassador Ned Walker speaks about Iraq war

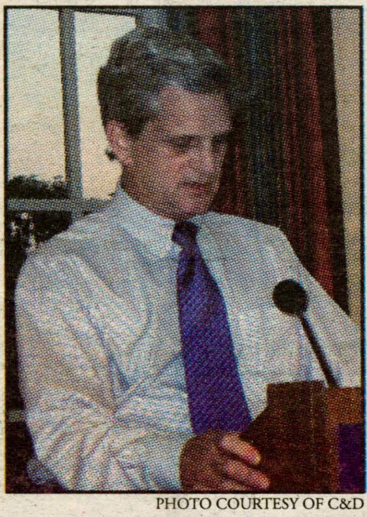


PHOTO COURTESY OF C&D

**Ambassador Ned Walker.**

**by Alex Morgan '09**
*News Writer*

Edward Walker, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Israel, a 1962 graduate of Hamilton, a candidate for the Christian Johnson Distinguished Professorship in Global Political Theory, and the current president of the Middle East Institute in Washington D.C., recently gave a lecture entitled "The Changing Strategic Picture of the Middle East."

Walker believes that the United States had evidence to predict the amount of resistance awaiting troops in Iraq. He quoted Brent Scowcroft, a former National Security Advisor for presidents Ford and H.W. Bush, as stating that the United States should focus on moving forward instead of debating the reasons for its involvement in the Iraq War.

Walker agrees that the United States must move forward, but at the same time he stresses the importance of looking at why past mistakes in Iraq were made and what caused the United States government to make these mistakes, in order to aid the war effort in the future. "If we are going to improve our performance in the future we need to investigate some of these questions today," said Walker.

He also quoted L. Paul Bremer, a former U.S. administrator in Iraq for President George W. Bush. Bremer claims that resistance to U.S. forces was expected, but not at such a high level of intensity. Walker argues that every regional government warned us about this level of resistance, and that this should not have been a surprise.

Walker continued by presenting what he considered to be several false assumptions made by the United States. The first involves the assumption that democracy can defeat terrorism. According to Walker, President Bush read former Israeli government official Natan

*see **Walker**, page 4*

Inside Issue II

Insights & Ideas........................6
Features........................................11
Arts & Entertainment................18
Science & Technology...............20
Sports...........................................22

# Couper was friend to many

*from **Couper**, page 1*

President, Provost and then again as Vice President at Hamilton. He was appointed as Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education of the New York Education Department in 1969.

Two years later, Couper took a new job as the Chief Executive Officer of the New York Public Library. In this position, Couper made a number of accomplishments, despite the troubled economy. According to Hamilton College, these accomplishments include: "the first balanced budget since 1924, the completion of a new building for the Schomburg Collection, a substantial challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, $10,000,000 from the Astor Foundation, the introduction of compact shelving, the closing of the card catalog in favor of a computerized catalog."

Perhaps the most impressive part of Mr. Couper's life was the incredible relationship he formed with the entire Hamilton community. President Joan Hinde Stewart said, "Dick Couper was one of the greatest Hamiltonians."

Professor of Classics Barbara Gold commented that, "Dick Couper was a passionate advocate for anything to do with Hamilton College."

Sidney Wertimer Professor of History Douglas Ambrose spoke of Couper's influence in the college community. Ambrose said, "He embodied what Hamilton inspires-invoking curiosity, generosity, love of life and learning in students." Ambrose and Couper became friends after serving together on the Committee to Celebrate the Bicentennial of the Oneida Academy and the Oneida County Historical Society.

Vice President of Communications and Development Richard Tantillo said, "Few individuals have the blessing of such an extraordinary alumnus and volunteer as Hamilton had with Richard Couper."

Couper was especially concerned with the College's Burke Library. Stewart said, "He had a special affection for Burke Library and its central place in the life of the campus. The Hamilton College head librarian position is endowed in the name of Dick and his wonderful wife, Patsy."

Ambrose recalled that Couper had come to the library to help preserve books. Ambrose said, "His love for Burke Library extended to him helping preserve rare books. [He was acting] not as a trustee, but as a loyal alumn and member of the community."

Couper also provided funds for faculty research, a tradition that was started by his father. Ambrose spoke about how Couper and his wife invited the faculty to their home for cocktails to learn more about their research. "He liked to see the way in which his contributions made a difference," Ambrose said. "He affected us at the most important level."

One of 21 Coupers to attend Hamilton College, Dick Couper was a sixth-generation Hamiltonian. Couper's great-great-great-grandfather started the tradition as a member of the class of 1820. Among the Couper Hamiltonians were eight members of Phi Beta Kappa, three trustees, four honorary degree recipients and five faculty members, according the Hamilton College Fall 2004 Alumni Review.

Stewart also spoke about Couper and his wife's involvement with the Hamilton community. "Coming from a long line of Hamilton graduates, Dick cherished Hamilton College. He and Patsy have been ambassadors for the College, both in the Clinton community and throughout the country. As a trustee, Dick was a thoughtful and deeply committed leader who took pride in chairing the committee that led to the founding of Kirkland College. He was a warm and loving individual and a thorough-going intellectual."

Couper received many awards in recognition of his dedication to the College. In 2004, he received the Volunteer of the Year Award. The award, which is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Hamilton community in a volunteer capacity, celebrated Couper's "unfailing, unstinting and exemplary" devotion to Hamilton College. The Hamilton chapter of Phi Beta Kappa recently named a lecture series after him, as well.

According to Ambrose, Couper was still "incredibly active intellectually" right up until the end of his life. Ambrose mentioned that he had recently received a note in the mail from Couper after he found an article of his in a scholarly journal.

Those who knew Couper will miss his passion for learning, his generosity and his kind heart. Ambrose said, "It's hard to imagine Hamilton without Richard Couper."

Gold said, "Dick was a man who cared deeply about books and ideas. He had met in his various positions and travels many interesting people, and he loved to tell stories about these encounters. He was generous, kind, intelligent, someone deeply devoted to the institutions he had associated with (like Hamilton) and to his family, his wonderful wife Patsy, three children and four grandchildren. His family will miss him and Hamilton College will miss him.

Stewart added, "It was Patsy Couper who said to me, when I first came to Hamilton, something I will never forget: "Hamilton has heart." It's true, and the Coupers exemplify it."

*A memorial service will be held in the Hamilton Chapel on Saturday, January 28, at 11:00 a.m. Calling hours will take place on Friday, January 27, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Owens-Pavlot Funeral Service, located at 35 College Street in Clinton.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF C&D

**Richard Couper and his wife, Patsy, pose with President Bill Clinton in 2004.**

# Louisiana will be location for ASB

**by Kara Labs '09**
*News Writer*

2006 marks the thirteenth year that students from Hamilton have volunteered their time over Spring Break to help make a difference in other people's lives. This year Alternative Spring Break is taking all six trips and traveling to Louisiana and Mississippi to help clean up after hurricane Katrina. This is unusual in the sense that ASB is sending all six trips to one area. Normally, ASB sends students to many different cities to work with other volunteer organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, YMCA, and The Nature Conservancy.

This year 66 students will participate. This number represents the maximum amount of students ASB can take. According to the school's insurance policy, no more than 11 people can fit in a van at a time, and they will be taking all six college vans. This number reflects a slight increase from the usual 50-60 who participate.

Alternative Spring Break was started in 1993 and was originally sponsored by HAVOC (Hamilton Action Volunteer Outreach Coalition). Now ASB is a student run organization with an executive board for which Jeff McArn, the college chaplain, acts as faculty advisor. This year Sharon Hakim '06 and Dan Nelson '06 are the two student directors. "Sharon and I are both leading trips; I am headed to New Orleans to do construction work with the United Way, and Sharon is headed to Bogalusa, Louisiana to do community outreach work with her trip," states Nelson.

Each trip has two student leaders. One of the groups will be volunteering at The United Way in New Orleans. This group is being coordinated through alumna Amanda Smithson, who graduated in 2000 and currently works for the United Way, New Orleans. Students who participate in this group will help schools and charities that were devastated.

Another group that will be doing manual labor is headed to Biloxi, Mississippi to aid in the repair of historical homes though the Heritage Conservation Network. In Bogalusa, students will do construction and repair on homes

*see **ASB**, page 4*

# *Search for new Dean of Faculty continues*

**by Meredith Kennedy '09**
*News Writer*

The Hamilton community recently received an e-mail about the progress of the search for a new Dean of Faculty. After 26 years at Hamilton, Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs David Paris '71 decided last year to finish his term of nine years "after several conversations with colleagues and family." At the September 6 faculty meeting, there was an election to form a search committee, where five faculty members were elected, and the rest appointed, with Pat Reynolds serving as the chair of the Dean of Faculty search committee.

Reynolds describes the process of finding a new Dean of Faculty as "a long one." An external search firm; Isaacson, Miller; was hired to help with the search process. The search firm came to campus and visited various groups, such as faculty members, the writing center and the library, and talked to people in order to find out what people expected and hoped for from the new dean. They then submitted this information to Hamilton's own search committee, who compiled a document regarding an applicant profile, which was posted on the web for all the candidates.

Reynolds said, "The Isaacson, Miller search firm have been a tremendous help in processing applications and nominations and supporting our work generally, and we are pleased with our progress to date." The committee has hosted the search firm here on campus and met with them periodically in order to be kept up to date.

According to Reynolds, the committee has begun preliminary interviews of candidates off-campus and are currently narrowing the pool, which was approximately one hundred people. Reynolds is confident that they have "an impressive slate of candidates" that will hopefully be able to fill the void left by Paris, who President Stewart describes as someone who "has served with exceptional dedication and fair-mindedness."

Reynolds expects the appointment of the new dean to be made during this semester, with the extensive on-campus interviews of the finalists happening before spring break. Once the three to four finalists are decided upon, the committee will present the potential candidates to President Stewart, who will then make the final decision. If the process is successful, Reynolds says we should expect the new appointed Dean of Students to start his/her term on July 1.

# *Hamilton educational environment an issue*

*from **Adler**, page 1*

how that affects everybody on campus," Patterson said.

The co-chairs met with students interested in serving on the Adler Conference Committee for the first time Thursday but have not yet decided on any topics. Still, they are planning an ambitious advertising campaign to raise interest in the event. They hope to have one new advertising campaign every week until the Conference on April 14. Patterson and Smith plan to place signs on tables in the dining halls, give out personal invitations, take out ads in college media and hopefully make an announcement at an upcoming faculty meeting. They hope raising awareness about the Conference will spark people's interest.

"The educational environment doesn't have to be a boring topic. There are contentious issues in that, and we hope to flush those controversies out during the conference," Patterson said. "We have some emotionally charged topics. There's more emotion on this campus than just issues driven by alcohol," Smith added, referencing the 2004 Adler Conference, which focused on Hamilton's alcohol climate and drew a significant amount of community interest.

By spreading the word about the Conference, Patterson and Smith hope to draw a large number of Hamiltonians to the five hour Conference.

"Our goal would probably be 250, 300 [people] minimum, and we think that we can probably accomplish more than that as long as we can really motivate people and make it personal with them," Patterson said.

In addition to making the 2006 Adler Conference a success, Patterson and Smith hope to make the annual Conference a more recognizable part of the Hamilton year.

"We'd like to put the Adler Conference on the map. Unfortunately, even though it has been going on for forty years, they [most students] haven't heard of it. That, in and of itself, is a problem," Smith said.

"This is its fortieth anniversary...and that's a pretty lasting tradition, and traditions really give people a sense of place at a school," Patterson added. "It's one event on this campus that can really bring people together."

The 2006 Adler Conference will be on April 14 from noon to 5:00 p.m., beginning in the Annex with group discussions possibly continuing in other locations. Anyone with comments, questions or concerns can contact Patterson and Smith at adler@hamilton.edu.

# ITS and AV to become one

**by Brianna Felton '09**
*NEWS WRITER*

No contracts were signed, but a major merger affecting the Hamilton Community was made on January 16, 2006. Two of the most helpful services on campus, Audiovisual Services and Information Technology Service, will merge into one entity beginning in early July. This is not a case of big company eats little company, but one where the two will work together for increased efficiency.

The decision comes after many years of discussion about the idea. Serious talks began in November of last year, culminating with the final decision this month. Vice President of ITS Dave Smallen states that "with the different technologies available in the classroom, it is increasingly difficult to distinguish between a multimedia problem and an audiovisual problem." With AV and ITS combined, a person will be able to have a "single point of contact in which to have all their questions answered."

According to Couper Librarian Randy Ericson, the suggestion was made by an evaluation team in 2001. In their evaluation they wrote, "As conventional audiovisual presentations migrate to network-provided multimedia presentations, it seems to make sense to move the audiovisual support group to ITS." However, it did not become pertinent to the Hamilton College Community until this past year. With the completion of the Science Center, more classrooms have increased technology. This added technology made it clear to Smallen that a merger was necessary. Members of both groups are overall happy with the decision.

"I knew it would eventually come along," states Director of Audiovisual Services Tim Hicks. With the increased pool of workers, the team will be able to do what they do best even better: help the Hamilton Community. Hicks understands that with this merger some new training will be needed for his team. This will assure that they can handle any problem that arises. It is especially important for the evening technician, Mary Christeler, because she is in charge of all evening events that are attended by faculty and students alike.

Students should not worry about losing any of the assistance they receive now, but they should look forward to what is to come. Though the merger will take affect in July, AV will remain at its home in the Christian Johnson building. Hicks realizes that they are just too big of a group to fit in the limited space of the library. A section for AV will most likely occur in the plans for the addition to the library. For now, continue to contact AV and ITS at their normal stations.

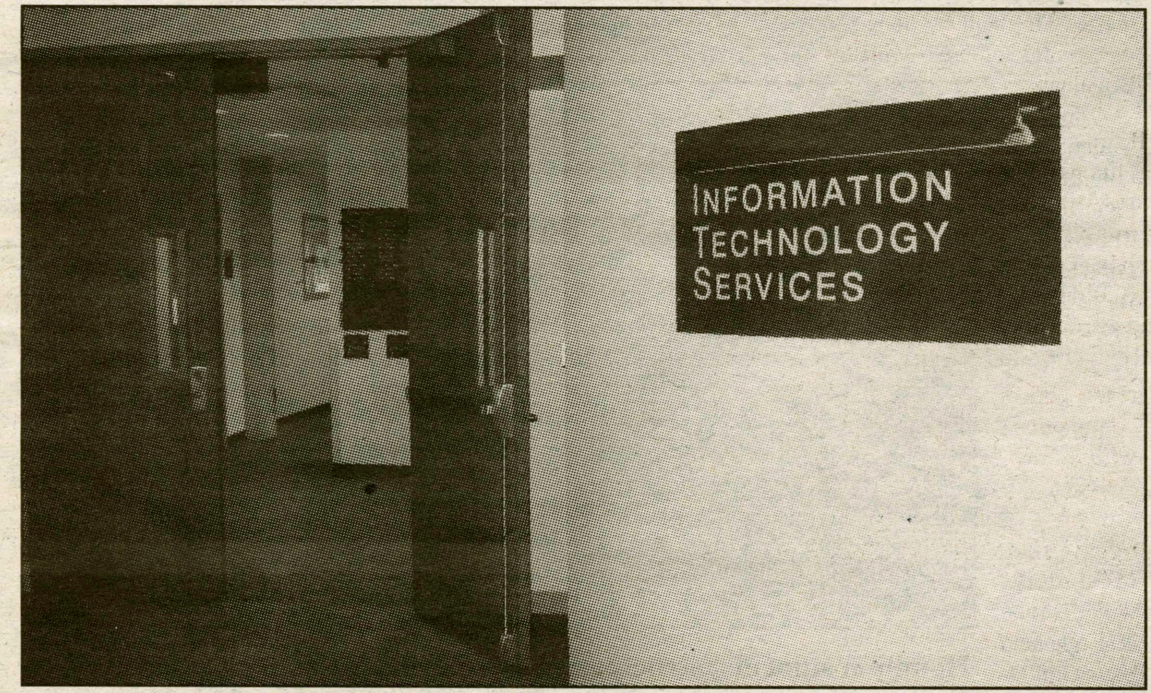


PHOTO BY MELISSA BALDING '09

**ITS and AV will merge, effective in July, because of new technology needs.**

## WORLD NEWS

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) -- Islamic militant Hamas' landslide victory in Palestinian elections unnerved the world Thursday, darkening prospects for Mideast peace and ending four decades of rule by the corruption-riddled Fatah Party.

The parliamentary victory stunned even Hamas leaders, who mounted a well-organized campaign but have no experience in government. They offered to share power with President Mahmoud Abbas, the Fatah chief, who said he may go around the new government to talk peace with Israel.

Underscoring the tensions between the secular Fatah and fundamentalist Hamas, some 3,000 supporters of the militant group marched through Ramallah and raised their party's green flag over the Palestinian parliament. Fatah supporters tried to lower the banner. The two sides fought for about 30 minutes, throwing stones and breaking windows in the building.

Abbas, who was elected last year to a four-year term as president of the Palestinian Authority, has yet to decide how closely to work with a group that built its clout through suicide bombings. But his Fatah Party decided not to join a Hamas government, Fatah legislator Saab Erekat said.

## NATIONAL NEWS

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- Sen. John Kerry will attempt a filibuster to block the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court.

"Judge Alito's confirmation would be an ideological coup on the Supreme Court," Kerry said in a written statement explaining his support for a filibuster.

"We can't afford to see the court's swing vote, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, replaced with a far-right ideologue like Samuel Alito."

Kerry, in Davos, Switzerland, to attend the World Economic Forum, was marshaling support in phone calls during the day, Democratic sources told CNN.

Sources said Kerry talked to a group of Democratic senators Wednesday, and urged that they join him. He also has the support of fellow Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy.

Some senior Democrats told CNN they are worried that the move could backfire.

Republicans would need 60 votes to overturn a filibuster -- a procedural move that extends Senate debate indefinitely, effectively blocking a vote. Senior White House officials said the move would make the Democrats look bad, and that Republicans believe they have enough votes to overcome any filibuster attempt.

## IVORY TOWERS

AP) -- The number of North American colleges with endowments topping $1 billion has jumped to 56, a new study says, with nine schools joining the elite club in what was an average year for university investments overall.

Harvard remained the richest, with $25.5 billion, followed by Yale with $15.2 billion.

The wealthiest per student was Rockefeller University in New York, which has no undergraduates, followed by Olin College, a small engineering school in Massachusetts that opened in 2002 and pays full tuition for all students.

The National Association of College and University Business Officers surveyed 746 institutions for the study. It found that those institutions earned an average of 9.3 percent on their investments in the year ending June 30, compared to 15.1 percent in fiscal 2004 and 3 percent in 2003.

Colleges typically spend about 5 percent of their endowment per year to support everything from scholarships to landscaping. Accounting for inflation and management fees, the investments generally need to earn about 9 percent to preserve their spending power. Last year's 9.3 percent return precisely matched the 10-year average.

The NACUBO survey follows the release last week of a similar survey by the Commonfund Institute. That survey, which tracks endowments of 729 colleges, independent schools and educational foundations, reported average returns of 9.7 percent.

The surveys show once again that institutions that already have money find it easier to make more of it. Endowments with more than $1

**Compiled by Ian Mandel '06**

# Former Ambassador discusses Middle East

*from **Walker**, page 1*

book "The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror" and was impressed by the author's claims.

Sharansky wrote a two-part strategy for dealing with terrorism. He advocates using compulsion against state sponsors of terrorism and the transforming power of democracy. Sharansky also claims that democracies never engage in conflict or use terrorism against each other.

Walker believes that Sharansky's points may have some validity, citing the IRA and Red Army Faction as examples of groups that have been defeated by democracies, but pointed out that democracy does not always eliminate terrorism. Even though these groups fell, terrorism still survives. "Iraq is the focus of the war on terrorism, but will not necessarily help us win the overall war," said Walker.

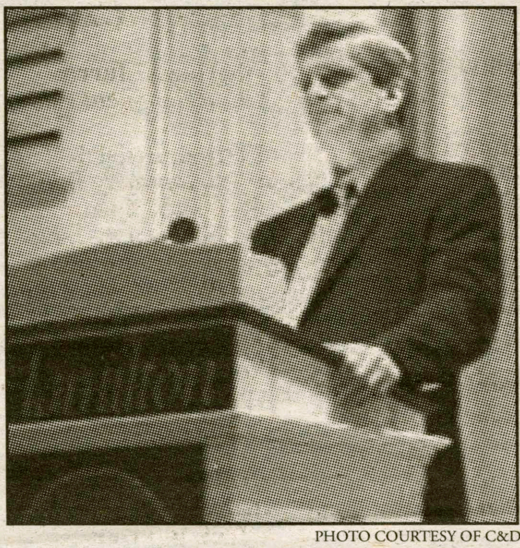


PHOTO COURTESY OF C&D

**Walker said that the United States was acting under false assumptions.**

In Walker's opinion, the United States may have made the problem worse by entering Iraq. He argues that many Middle Eastern countries now see the United States as an invader and terrorists have gained credibility.

"They have a whole propaganda machine that is working against us," said Walker. He described how U.S. involvement in Iraq has allowed Middle Eastern governments and terrorists to generate convincing anti-American propaganda, thus creating increasing anti-American sentiment.

According to Walker, there is little the United States government can do about the propaganda problem. He believes that it is up to individual citizens to counteract the constant stream of misinformation and stereotypes of Americans spread throughout the Middle East.

The second assumption Walker cites was that Iraqi oil production would exceed prewar levels and bring economic stability to the nation. According to Walker, the United States did not anticipate the vulnerability of Iraqi oil wells. Now, as Iraq's oil resources diminish, nations with their own oil resources, such as Iran, have gained more influence.

Walker asserted that if sanctions are placed on Iran because it supports terrorism, Iran will likely remain in a strong position because of the high demand for oil. "The Iranians can use oil wealth to cement their friendships with other nations," said Walker.

The third assumption made by the United States was that the Middle East is made up of nation states. Walker noted, however, that religion and ethnicity come before country in many Middle Eastern nations. He stated that Iraq without the leadership of Saddam Hussein is now even more divided than before among Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds. Religious leadership, is more important than national leadership, making it difficult to organize a democracy, he argued.

The United States's final false assumption, according to Walker, was that it has economic power that allows it unilateral influence over world events. He argued that the United States cannot easily act against Iran due to that country's energy arrangement with China. In this situation, said Walker, the United States's economic influence means nothing because Iran does not need U.S. support if it maintains an alliance with China.

Walker concluded by restating that the United States government must learn from its past mistakes and determine what is needed in the future instead of blindly moving forward. "The issue ought to be what this region will look like after we leave, how will we protect our friends, and how will we secure our interests in energy."

# *Hamilton to increase diversity on campus*

*from **Diversity**, page 1*

-versity on campus. Last fall the national conference of the Consortium for a Strong Minority Presence at Liberal Arts Colleges (CSMP) was held at Hamilton. According to Pillow, the program's participants consists of about three dozen small colleges that hold fellowships for graduate students completing their Ph.D.s. The conference is an opportunity for these students to network and connect as well as to present their scholarly work and attend presentations designed for them. "The purpose [of this conference]," says Pillow, "is to introduce dissertation candidates of color to the idea of spending their careers at liberal arts colleges."

Each year Hamilton hosts two CSMP candidates. This year the candidates are Visiting Professor of Art History Agnes Bertiz and Visiting Assistant Professor of History Kathleen Lopez.

Hamilton is also a participant in the Consortium on High Achievement and Success (CHAS), which is comprised of 34 liberal arts colleges and small universities who focus on encouraging high achievement and leadership of students, concentrating on students of color. CHAS, in conjunction with the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, recently awarded Hamilton's science faculty a grant to "implement programs for increasing science study among students of color," also according to an e-mail sent out by President Stewart.

Hamilton also recently appointed Associate Dean of Students for Diversity and Accessibilty Berenecea Johnson to oversee the Office of Diversity and Accessibility, a part of the Division of Student life. Johnson says that she feels the diversity efforts of the College are designed to "provide the students with an environment that encourages safe access and respectful communication."

"I think campus climate is something that is a comprehensive project and it is the work of the entire community," she added in regards to the initiatives improving the campus' climate and attitude towards diversity.

Johnson has been involved with meeting with the members of the LGBT Task Force to discuss their goals and recommendations, which were recently publicized in the LGBT Task Force report, another of the College's diversity initiatives. The report evaluated the campus climate for LGBT students, faculty and staff. The Safe Zone Program, involving the placement of pink triangles outside the office doors of faculty and staff and the residence doors of students, was a recommendation of the report. Johnson also mentioned that Rainbow Alliance's Day of Silence is coming up on April 26.

Both Johnson and Pillow noted how pleased they were with the College's efforts to recruit a more diverse class of incoming freshmen. Pillow commented that this year's incoming class was the most diverse Hamilton has seen yet, as was the Class of 2008 when they entered Hamilton. Pillow also noted that the College has been successful in hiring a more diverse faculty.

President Stewart commented on the success of Hamilton's diversity efforts but cautioned that there is much work left to be done: "We want the campus to be as welcoming a place as it can possibly be. We have made some progress but we still have a great deal to do."

Johnson echoed her sentiments and encouraged active student involvement: "I believe that any change of [campus] climate must be the result of the commitment of the community. There's always work to be done. Keep in mind that this sort of work is a lifetime commitment.".

# Hamilton students will help rebuild homes in Louisiana

*from **ASB**, page 2*

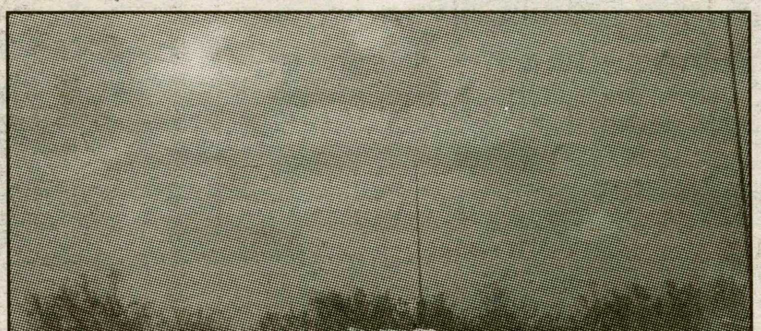


PHOTO COURTESY OF LACOAST.GOV

**Hamilton students participating in Alternative Spring Break will travel to Louisiana to help rebuild.**

that were damaged as well as conduct needs assessments. They will be trained to go door to door and see what residents need so that later non-profit groups can assist them. This will be done though the Triangle of Hope Ministries in Bogalusa.

Some students will volunteer their time at The Boys and Girls Club in Baton Rouge. They will be doing outreach work in conjunction with Louisiana State.

Another group of students will also be at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge working with Louisiana State's Alternative Spring Break Group doing outreach in the local community. The final ASB Group will be helping at The Nature Conservancy in New Orleans. Students will be working at a nature preserve that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

ASB was advertised back in the fall and students who wanted to participate filled out a form stating their trip preference (construction, environmental, or community outreach). They also had to submit the answers to two questions: one about their previous community service, as well as why they wanted to participate in ASB. This year Alternative Spring Break is filled to capacity, but students who want to participate can be put on a waitlist in case someone drops out.

About half the groups will be leaving on March 11 and returning on the 19th. The rest will take off on the 17th and return on the 25th. Students will be traveling by Jitney because "it is a way of fostering bonds among group members and because they are the least expensive option," says Dan. Participants will most likely be living in churches or community centers because of the budget.

This year the cost for the program has increased dramatically from $16,000 last year to $23,000 this year. The reason for such an increase is because of the rising cost of fuel, and this year ASB will be traveling farther (to Louisiana rather than North or South Carolina, Virginia, or Georgia as they have in years past). Students who wanted to participate pay a $125 fee, consistent over the last four years. Financial aid is available for those who need it. To help defray the cost of the trip, ASB receives money from the Chaplaincy as well as from fundraising and donations from various sources. The biggest source of fundraising each year comes from the silent auction. This year the auction will be held on March 2nd. Leaders and participants solicit donations from area businesses, parents and various other places. These items are available throughout the day to be bid on.

"Students need not be present to win, they can come by any time during the day and bid and we will contact them if their bid was the highest," states Nelson. ASB will also be raffling off one round-trip ticket to anywhere in the United States. Tickets will be made available for sale at least one week beforehand in Beineke.

If there is anyone who wishes to donate anything for the auction they can contact Sharon or Dan at their school e-mail addresses (shakim and dnelson).

# The Spectator

This past Wednesday, the Hamilton community lost one of its most prominent members and supporters. Richard Couper '44 exemplified what it means to be an active and extremely dedicated member of a community. Even after he left the Hill in 1947, Couper never ceased his involvement with Hamilton College. As a life trustee, he gave all that he could, and when he returned to Clinton after retirement, he again became very active with life on campus. From volunteering at the library, to dining with faculty, to speaking to students on campus, to sending personal notes acknowledging a colleague's work, Richard Couper made himself known as a generous, kind-hearted and intelligent man. He truly was everything that Hamilton College stands for.

Reflection upon Trustee Couper's many selfless accomplishments should inspire in all of us at Hamilton College a desire to become more active in the Hamilton community. It does not take a law degree, it does not take a fortune and it does not take a lifetime of experience to give back to the community in which we all live.

In this issue of The Spectator, you will read about students who have given up their Spring Breaks to help with the rebuilding efforts in Mississippi and Louisiana. You will read about two outstanding students who are calling upon all of us to sit down together to make this community better than it already is, by participating in this year's Adler Conference. Last week, several students attended events in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. These are just three examples of the many, many students who have gotten involved and given back to their community, both at Hamilton College and in other parts of the country.

In the upcoming months, your inboxes will undoubtedly become clogged with all-campus e-mails encouraging you to join, volunteer, participate and organize. This semester, instead of just deleting those e-mails, consider joining a new club, contributing to a community service project or taking part in a discussion group. It might be one small act, but as Richard Couper has shown us, a lifetime of small acts can turn into a legacy.

TEACHFORAMERICA

Teach For America is building the movement to eliminate educational inequity by calling upon our nation's most promising future leaders to commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and to become lifelong advocates to expand opportunity for all children.

During their two-years, Teach For America's teachers go above and beyond to ensure that students growing up today attain significant gains in academic achievement.  At the same time, these teachers gain tremendous insight and added commitment that leads them to work throughout their lives from inside education and from every other sector, to effect the systemic changes needed to truly realize our vision of educational opportunity for all.

Since its inception, more than 14,000 individuals have joined the movement impacting the lives of some 2 million students across the U.S.

*To help us reach the day when all children in this nation have the opportunity to attain an excellent education, visit www.teachforamerica.org.*

**The Spectator**

**Emma J. L. Furman,**
*EDITOR-IN-CHIEF*

**Caitlin M. Rochford,**
***News Editor***

**Whitney P. Kimmel,**
***Features Editor***

**Laura D. Trubiano,**
***Science & Technology Editor***

**Allison Krutul,**
***Senior Copy Editor***

**Thomas S. Booth,**
***Staff Cartoonist***

**Rachael F. Arnold,**
***Layout Manager***

**Katherine A. Jurras,**
***Arts & Entertainment Editor***

**Letty Z. Bedard,**
***Senior Photography Editor***
**Robert B. Cole,**
***Senior Photography Editor***
**Daniel Wittenberg,**
***Assistant Photography Editor***
**Melissa Balding,**
***Assistant Photography Editor***

**Anne Schlesinger,**
***Copy Editor***

**Brian Greenleaf,**
***Delivery Manager***
**Jack B. Prior,**
***Delivery Manager***

**Ian B. Mandel,**
***Senior Editor***

**Ben L. Noble,**
***Insights & Ideas Editor***
**Eric J. Kuhn,**
***Insights & Ideas Editor***

**Nicholas H. Rockwell,**
***Sports Editor***

**Daniel Wittenberg,**
***Advertisements Manager***

**Dan E. Carroll,**
***Office Manager***

**Emily Tang,**
***Website Manager***

**Celebrating our 157th year in print.**
**First published asThe Radiator in 1848.**

*The Editorial represents the opinion of a majority of The Spectator Editorial Board. The Hamilton College* Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. Subscriptions are $50 per year. Our offices are located on the third floor of Bristol Campus Center. The deadline for letters and advertisements is Tuesday the week of publication. For further information, please call (315) 859-4100 or (preferably) e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. For advertisements, e-mail spec@hamilton.edu.*

*ADVERTISE IN THE SPECTATOR!*
*E-MAIL DWITTENB@HAMILTON.EDU FOR MORE INFO*

Amidst The Hedges
An Elegant Country Bed & Breakfast
Clinton, New York

Just a short stroll from both the quaint Village Green and Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, The Hedges offers three luxurious suites, each with a private bath, and richly decorated in period antiques, oriental rugs and original works of art.

For Reservations or More Information
The Hedges • 180 Sanford Avenue • Clinton, NY 13323
800-883-5883 (toll-free) or 315-853-3031 (local)
315-736-7725 (fax)
info@hedgesbb.com
www.hedgesbb.com

*DSL Available*

**Interested in writing for News?**

**Contact Caitlin Rochford at crochfor@hamilton.edu**

# Insights & Ideas

## Is your $H_2$Ok: facing the hard decision to drink or not to drink the Hamilton water

**by Eric Kuhn '09**
*Insights and Ideas Editor*

"Annabelle Daniels: 10 years old. Wanted to be a synchronized swimmer so she spent every minute she could in the PG&E pool. She had a tumor in her brain stem detected last November. Her parents are Ted and Rita. Ted's got Crohn's disease, Rita has chronic headaches and nausea, and underwent a hysterectomy last fall."

For many of us, when we hear the sound bite "contaminated water," Hollywood comes to mind. Critically acclaimed non-fiction movies such as "Erin Brockovich" (from which the above quote comes), with Julia Roberts, and "Civil Action," with John Travolta, are about those who take on big corporations charged with contaminating the water.

Being the editor of Ideas and Insights, I felt that it was my responsibility to express the beat and pulse of the student body. This week it seemed to be all about water. Walking down Martin's Way, typical conversation ranged from joking, "You better melt the snow, because it doesn't contain cancer," to "Just got back from buying my bottled water."

Somehow, I felt that college should not be filled with students worrying if their drinking water is safe, but rather concentrating on how well they did on the econ test or where the next party will be.

My colleague at the paper, Ian Mandel, wrote an article last week that acertainly did not make me comfortable. I was outraged at the problem that plagued the school and decided to do some of my own research.

I started with a phone call to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (one of the best cancer institutes in the world) and, after being transferred here and there, spoke to someone who said that the risks of obtaining bladder or colorectal cancer from just four years of drinking the water were very slim.

> There is no reason for a school that charges over $40,000 a year, and recently raised over $100 million...to have water problems.

However, the cancer expert did mention that they were slim only if the person drinking the water was "perfect" and did NOT drink or smoke. Well, good news I thought; considering no one at Hamilton drinks or smokes, we are all okay.

I then called up a high powered attorney in Westchester County, NY and asked what he thought the chances of winning a lawsuit if I were to fall sick. His reaction was you can sue anyone you want, but will not win. He explained that it is always tough to connect the dots back to the original source, especally when the disease is caused different factors

The way I calculated it was that if you weigh 160 pounds, you need to drink 80 ounces of water per day (if not drinking caffeine and/or exercising). That was five .5 L of bottled water a day (at a $1.19 each), coming comes to approximately $600 dollars for one semester.

Honestly, I was mad. There is no reason for a school that charges over $40,000 a year, and recently raised over $100 million for the Excelsior Campaign, to have water problems. After all, if everyone died of cancer, we could forget about alumni money rolling in! It was time to talk with the College.

I called up Steve Bellona, associate vice president for facilities and planning, and told him that, even though the new reading on the water purity seemed "safe," the campus was still worried. However, the test was conducted right after a massive flushing of the system, so if the water is not clean then, when is it?

"Personally, I think it [the water] is safe. But everyone needs to do their own risk assessment on this," Bellona said. He said that five years ago soy burgers were the biggest fad and now studies show they foster high cholesterol. I realized that CNN produced numerous stories on how French fries gave you cancer, but the greasy potatoes are still on everyone's plate in the diner.

Bellona continues, "We also have to let our constituency know, so they can make an educated decision. If the Oneida County health department said it was unsafe, we would not be operating."

It is also important to note that all the dining areas have filters on their water, so the only real risk is if you drink water coming out of the tap. Does Bellona? "You bet! I am drinking it right now."

I began to calm down as we continued to talk. It seemed like the college was not letting the typical bureaucracy that appears in any organization slow down their response rates. An engineer was immediately called in when the problem arose and will continue his efforts until the water is harmless.

Besides flushing the system, there are two other options that are possible – and I personally would like to see one of them implemented. The first is reverse osmosis and the other is Granulated Activated Charcoal (GAC). Both these methods are almost failsafe in getting rid of the trihalomethane; however, they come with a price tag of half a million dollars.

Over the week, I had spoken to government, college and outside officials on the water problem. It was time to make a decision on how I would proceed with my life.

I relaxed and realized that I still preferred to play it safe rather than sorry, opening up a fresh, clean bottle of Poland Spring.

Maybe the decision was slanted from my movie watching experience, which told me not to trust any water, or maybe it was that we are living in an age where terror is all around us and this was something I could control.

Whatever the reason, I would hope the college reimburse us all for the bottled water and spend the half million.

Comparitavely that is a drop in the bucket next to the new $56 million science center; I would perfer a few less high-tech microscopes or automatic window shades for dependable water.

After a week of researching trihalomethane, otherwise known as the "cancer in the water," two things became clear: 1) We were not dealing with the cronies at PG&E and 2) I now knew why Erin Brockovich was not on the A-list this year for Great Name Speakers.

## Thumbs up

**- Dance Team: We're still crossing our fingers for "Call on me."**

**- The Williams game. At least we're not the Purple Cows.**

**- 24 Hour Film Fest: Your only excuse for secretly taping your roommate and his girlfriend.**

**- Public Speaking Competition Bringing Hamilton's best oral skills out of the bedroom and onto the podium.**

**- In Memory of Dick Couper.**

## Thumbs down

**- New Mid East Commons food part of admission's secret plan to attract terrorists to Hamilton.**

**- Frosh trying to undermine our right to drink in excess by writing letters to the administration.**

**- Having to miss 106 & Park for two weeks because the Boxer has taken over BET.**

**- Opus Price increase forcing PBX to get a night job to pay for lunch.**

**-RIP Pasta Bar, but at least we can still frost our own cookies.**

**by Jesse Gaylord '06**
**and Daniel Horowitz '06**

## Who cares

**- Cheerleading Team: We're still crossing our fingers that SA cuts your budget.**

**- Psyched about Psych= Psyched about not going.**

**- New website: Looks great, good thing the stories show we're 80% multicultural, 90% international and 100% loser.**

**- The Republican Club's State of the Union Party drinking game. Drink one everytime Bush violates the Constitution.**

# *Left! Right! Hamilton, let's fight!*

## *This week's topic: Campaign Finance Reform*

**by Nicholas Berry '09**
*Insights & Ideas Writer*

For years, Congress has attempted to pass campaign finance reform legislation in order to control the often unregulated flow of money into campaign coffers as well as the resultant corruption and possible bribery. One of the reasons that such legislation is difficult to pass is that the people voting for the bill are the same people who will be regulated by the bill.

Since few politicians want to lose money, the difficulties inherent in the passage of such legislation are readily apparent. Another reason is that some groups feel such legislation would infringe upon civil liberties protected by the First Amendment.

It is true that donating money is a form of speech and that citizens have the right to petition the government. But, the Constitution also states that all citizens are equal under the law. So, it is perfectly reasonable to ensure that the rich, corporations or labor unions do not have a disproportionate amount of "speech" compared to the average citizen.

The Supreme Court has instituted the "one man, one vote" rule in regards to election districts, so the same should hold true for speech. If a millionaire is able to donate great sums of money to a campaign while a middle-class American is only able to donate a significantly smaller amount, then it is obvious that the millionaire has been given more speech than the middle-class American.

In order to level the playing field, campaign contributions need to be regulated and restricted. This is the only way to make the system fair for all. Besides, it is a great way to guarantee our government officials are not being bribed or in the pockets of corporations or labor unions.

Campaign finance reform is not a partisan issue because both sides are equally in need of it. Rather, it is a solution to the problem of the unequal influence citizens have in the government.

In 2002, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) was passed by Congress in an effort to better regulate the money flowing into political campaigns. Sponsored by Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI), BCRA enjoyed strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. The law's major provisions ban "soft money" contributions, restrict "hard money" contributions, prohibit "issue ads," and mandate greater campaign finance disclosure and stronger election laws. In essence, the law seeks to end the corruption that often results from unregulated campaign finance practices.

In 2003, Republican Senator Mitch McConnell from Kentucky, the Republican majority whip, and other BCRA opponents argued that the law was an unconstitutional infringement on First Amendment rights.

The Supreme Court, however, disagreed. Its decision in *McConnell v. FEC* upheld the constitutionality of the major BCRA provisions and ruled that not all political speech is protected against government infringement.

The 2004 election was the first presidential election to be governed by BCRA. As a result of the law, both candidate's campaigns could no longer raise money using traditional methods. Consequently, they had to think of new ways to get around the law's provisions.

One solution to this problem was the use of 527 committees, officially nonpartisan organizations organized under Section 527 of the IRS tax code. Some notable 527 groups include the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and MoveOn.org.

Many of the traditional functions of the parties, financed by "soft money," were moved to these 527 groups. The FEC voted to postpone a decision concerning the legality of such fundraising, thus allowing it to continue unaffected through the 2004 election cycle.

Another immediately recognizable impact is that, as a result of the so-called "stand by your ad" provision, all campaign advertisements now include the candidate appearing on screen to say something similar to "I'm John Doe and I approved this message."

PHOTO COURTESY OF SENATE.GOV

**Senators Russ Feingold (D-WI) and John McCain (R-AZ) converse in a committee session.**

**by Lorraine Sperling '08**
*Insights & Ideas Writer*

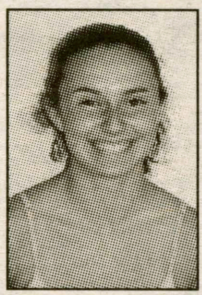
Earlier this week, the Supreme Court issued an unsigned opinion in which "justices said the...Court's 2003 ruling [in *McConnell v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)*] upheld a federal campaign finance law," according to the Associated Press. The campaign finance law in question is the controversial McCain-Feingold Act, also known as the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) or the Shays-Meehan Act. After a Wisconsin-based group filed a federal appeal regarding the Act's restriction on the use of corporate or union money "for ads that identify federal candidates two months before a general election," the case has returned to Washington, "giving the Supreme Court its first opportunity to review the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law in practical use" (AP). Coincidentally, among the federal candidates named in the ad was Senator Russ Feingold, cosponsor of the legislation in question.

Supporters of the legislation claim it preserves democracy by limiting "corruption" in the electoral process, namely contributions to political campaigns. However, as Justices Clarence Thomas writes in his dissent of *FEC v. Colorado Republican Federal Campaign Committee*—a case which, similar to *McConnell v. FEC*, upheld the constitutionality of McCain-Feingold's coordinated party spending limits—"the question is whether the government has demonstrated both that coordinated expenditures by parties give rise to corruption and that the restriction [of coordinated party spending] is 'closely drawn' to curb this corruption. I believe it is not." Thomas goes on to clarify that, "The very aim of a political party is to influence its candidate's stance on issues and, if the candidate takes office or is reelected, his votes. If coordinated expenditures help achieve this aim, the achievement does not . . . constitute 'a subversion of the political process.' It is simply the essence of our Nation's party system of government." Hence, coordinated party spending is not a hurdle to the American political process; rather it is an integral component of it. Contrary to the intentions of the bill, Thomas said "subversion of the political process" creates a corruption to the system, itself, far greater than any "appearances of corruption" of which it is the bill's original intention to redress.

As for the constitutionality of McCain-Feingold, the legislation violates the First Amendment, namely freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Provisions of the bill forbid television ads from containing political content within sixty days of a general election or thirty days before a primary. Surprisingly, Justice Thomas was among the minority on the Court who saw the unconstitutionality of this provision: "The chilling endpoint of the Court's reasoning is not difficult to see: outright regulation of the press." Raising questions that should surface in the mind of every American, Justice Thomas asked, "What is to stop a future Congress from determining that the press is too influential, and that the appearance of corruption is significant when media organizations endorse candidates...? ... or, even easier, what is to stop a future Congress from concluding that the availability of unregulated media corporations creates a loophole that allows for easy circumvention of the limitations of the current campaign finance laws?" The Supreme Court, having upheld Congress' judgment to suspend freedom of speech and freedom of the press in the time preceding an election, has effectively suspended First Amendment rights at the most crucial time for free dissemination of information amongst the electorate, and in doing so, has set a dangerous precedent likely to open the flood-gates toward greater curtailment of First Amendment rights in the future.

In short, the McCain-Feingold Act and the existing Supreme Court decisions supporting it are highly problematic insofar as they fail to address proven elements of corruption, and insofar as they curtail critical First Amendment freedoms of speech and freedom of the press. In the case of American law, with its reverence for precedent, one must attend to the "slippery slope" argument. Assuming the view that it is the nature of governments to seek to expand their power, one can easily see where, as Justice Thomas warns, the proverbial slippery slope in this case will lead. For these reasons, let us hope the Supreme Court joins with Thomas on these issues if it decides to review this legislation once again.

# Dear Hamilton Helper



**by Becca Griffith '09**
*Insights and Ideas Writer*

*Dear Hamilton Helper,*
*A lot of my friends are gone this semester because they're studying abroad, and I find myself without a core group of friends. I really miss them, and I'm worried that I'm going to have a horrible semester without them. What can I do?*
*~Saddened Student*

**Dear Saddened,**
**Just because some of your friends are abroad doesn't mean that you won't get to talk with them. There is still the phone, e-mail, letters and AIM to keep in touch. If you really miss seeing your friends, then you could even buy a webcam so that you can see each other even though you're in different countries. This is also a great opportunity to try and get to know some other friends better or to make new ones. If you really don't think you can last three months without seeing your friends, then play up this fact to your parents. There is a two week break in March that would be prime visiting time. Hint. Hint.**

*Dear Hamilton Helper,*
*The cost of all my books for this semester has left me with very little money to last me through May. What can I do to make ends meet without having to give up anything major?*
*~Currently Cashless*

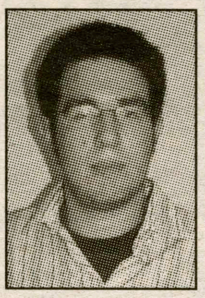
**Dear Cashless,**
**There are always ways to make some extra cash. First of all, if you haven't already, you could always sell some of your books from last semester back to the bookstore. Then, there is always the possibility of getting an on or off-campus job. If all else fails, however, buy some scratch-off lotto tickets and hope for the best.**

Outraged?

Voice your opinion in Insights & Ideas

Contact Ben (bnoble) and Eric (ekuhn)

# *Washington Post* Misleads



**by Chris Bouton '09**
*Insights & Ideas Writer*

In her January 15, 2006 column, *Washington Post* ombudsman Deborah Howell twice claimed that Democratic legislators received money from lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

For evidence, Howell cited two *Post* articles that detailed Mr. Abramoff's various dealings, but no where in the two articles published on June 3, 2005 and December 5, 2005 did reporters claim that Democrats received direct contributions from Mr. Abramoff.

Howell's statements led many readers to e-mail her regarding the Abramoff claim because according to the Center for Responsive Politics, no Democrat ever received campaign contributions from Mr. Abramoff. Reader objections prompted the *Washington Post* media writer Howard Kutz in a January 17 online discussion to acknowledge that Howell's contention was "inartfully worded" and could "have been more accurate."

The media watchdog group *Media Matters for America* has also objected to certain statements made by Howell regarding her defense in a January 4, 2006 article, which failed to offer a non-Bush administration view regarding its domestic spying program. As part of the controversy, Howell e-mailed *Media Matters* and stated that, "I have not endorsed printing misleading or false claims. Newspapers ask for all sides of a question or an issue and issues don't always get addressed fully in every story. This is an issue addressed in multiple stories." *Media Matters* replied that "This presumably means that, if Linzer [the author of the story in dispute] reports that the Bush administration says "2+2=7," readers may have to wait for an article in a subsequent edition of the *Post* to learn that the administration's contention is disputed by ample evidence that 2+2 is, in fact, 4."

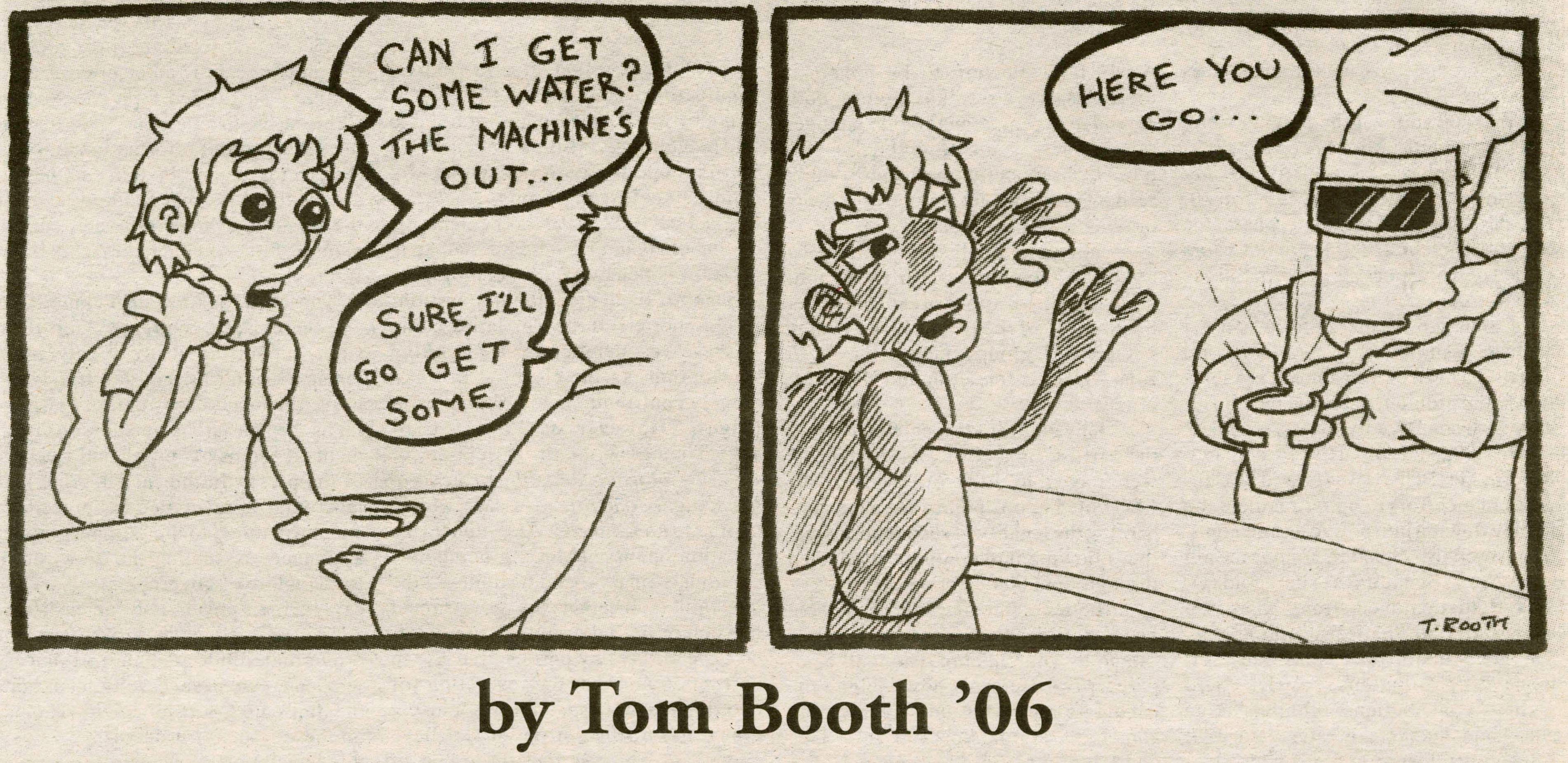
After the incident with *Media Matters*, Ms. Howell posted on the *Washington Post* internal message board that, "from now on, I don't reply." Whether Ms. Howell's statement applies just to Media Matters complaints or to all objections raised by readers is unclear. One hopes that Ms. Howell will be in the future open to all legitimate criticism of the Post and acknowledge reader objections.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GERALD HERBERT

**Lobbist Jack Abramoff departing Federal Court in Washington, D.C.**

These two incidents display a horrifying lapse in journalistic integrity by Ms. Howell. The fact that Ms. Howell did not either fully research Mr. Abramoff's background or correctly interpret the reporting work of the Post's own reporters demonstrates either her own incompetence or a down-right disregard of the truth. Leading news organizations like the *Washington Post* have an obligation to report the truth and a duty to fix mistakes both intentional and unintentional. Ms. Howell refused to do so. *Washington Post* readers reply on the paper for truthful reporting, and when the paper fails in that, it fails its readers. This failure does not hurt Ms. Howell, as she will continue as the ombudsman until her contract expires.

It hurts the level of intelligent discourse over the issues of the day. A well informed populous is crucial to the entire system of checks and balances. The citizenry must be able to comprehend the actions and motives of its elected officials. If voters do not know why Mr. Abramoff gave money to Tom DeLay or why the Bush administration so ardently defends its warrantless domestic spying program, despite ample legal spying options available, then citizens are denied the ability to accurately judge these issues for themselves. Ms. Howell failed in her job by mischaracterizing and misstating the controversies over Mr. Abramoff and the domestic spying program, thus denying Americans a check on their government and spreading lies instead of facts.


CAN I GET SOME WATER? THE MACHINE'S OUT...
SURE, I'LL GO GET SOME.
HERE YOU GO...
T. BOOTH

# by Tom Booth '06

# Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

At one point, each and every one of us has had to endure the painful beginning days of college. Whether it was as a transferring sophomore or, more commonly, as an incoming freshman, you know how high your expectations were and just how much more nervous those expectations made you.

To make the process more comfortable, 'regulars' are given one week for orientation to get to know each other until the returning students arrive, hopefully excited to meet the 450 new students on campus. Days go by, experiences gained, and the nervous introductions fade away, replaced by friendly "hello's" and "how are you's."

So it's not that bad, right? Well, this situation is entirely different for the small minority that is the "Jans." We are sent to a seemingly random country (the past two years being Ireland) and expected to put that experience behind us when we return to the states to spend our first of three and a half years at Hamilton. Everyone has already had time to get to know each other; they've found their relative social circle. Not to mention there are forty-five students to every incoming Jan on campus. Truthfully, why *would* a regular care to put effort in meeting a Jan?

Logically, it would seem the task is ours to take. It is us that have the most to gain and literally nothing to lose. But if one was to try to rationalize our situation, does it not make sense that we are also the ones most uncomfortable? We've all gone through high school, and most of us know what it's like when a new student arrives. We (the Jans) realize that you aren't as excited to meet us as we are you, and this can be very intimidating to us. The "meet the Jan" get-together this past Saturday had a show up of, I think, 20-30 returning freshman out of a class of 450!

And then there is the stigma of being a Jan. I know not why we were chosen to be Jan admits. I know in some schools we would be the crème de la crop of the waiting list. Sometimes, I hear, people even apply for it. My best guess regarding Hamilton would be that there are financial implications behind it, since there is a disproportionally small number of those on financial aid (if any!) than any randomly picked group of 35 regulars. And I know it also serves the purpose of filling empty rooms of those studying abroad in the spring. If am wrong in my interpretation, I would love to be corrected. But I have a difficult time believing that we are of a lower standard academically or socially. It's more likely the fact that we add little diversity to the college (so far, I have yet to meet a Jan admit that isn't white) yet we can still pay the tuition (as far as I know).

So if it's not intelligence that we lack (or if it is, I don't think it's a significant lacking), and if we have every reason in the world to be polite and inviting if approached by a returning student, what is it that repels people from wanting to meet us? We won't bite, we won't curse, and we certainly won't be condescending. We are looking for friends, and I hope that each of you have space in your social circle for one more person. Even if we don't appear so, we *want* to meet you. We just aren't sure if you want to meet us.

So against my strongest instincts I will break the rule of not ending with a quote, and do so anyways (compliments of a relatively unknown French author, Madame de Tencin): "Never refuse any advance of friendship, for if nine out of ten bring you nothing, one alone may repay you."

Robert Tussing '09

## *Letters to the editor policy*

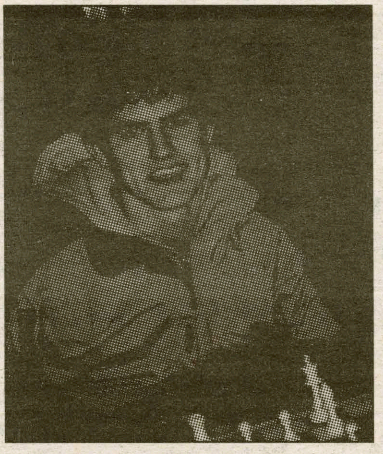
***THE SPECTATOR'S*** **LETTER TO THE EDITOR SECTION IS DESIGNED TO BE A FORUM FOR THE ENTIRE HAMILTON COMMNUNITY TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE CAMPUS, LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES. PIECES PUBLISHED IN THE SECTION EXPRESS THE OPINION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WRITERS, AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE OPINIONS OF *THE SPECTATOR*, ITS EDITORS, OR THE MEDIA BOARD. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME FROM ALL STUDENTS, ALUMNI/AE, FACULTY, FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE AND HAMILTON COMMUNITY MEMBERS. NEVERTHELESS, *THE SPECTATOR* HAS THE FOLLOWING POLICIES FOR SUBMISSION:**

1. Submissions are due by 6:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before publication. Submissions can be sent by email to spec@hamilton.edu or to the I&I editors (bnoble@hamilton.edu or ekuhn@hamilton.edu). The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 650 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* will not edit letters for misspelling, poor grammar or diction.
5. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
6. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

# *Hamilton Unscripted*

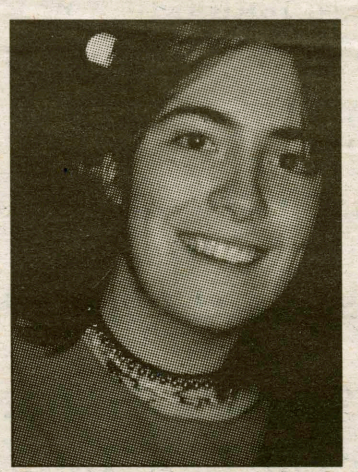
### *This week's question: What's your Problem?*

by Michelle Butler '06 & Eric Kuhn '09

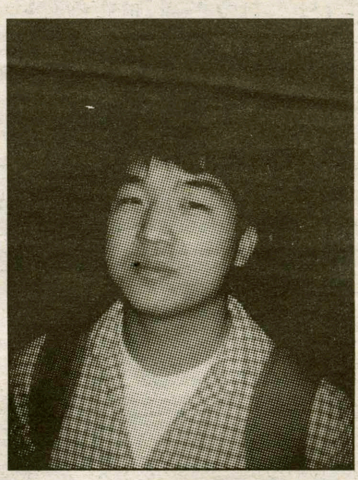


**"I can't find a good DM (Dungeon Master)."**
**~ Bowden Euscher '09**

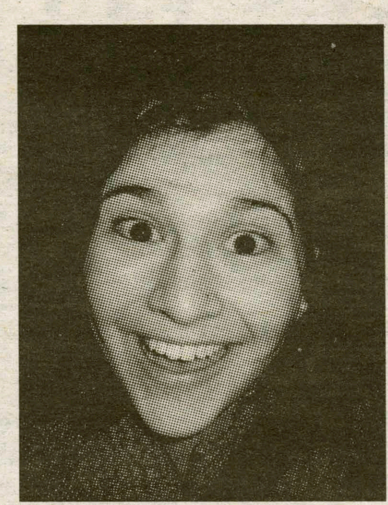
**"I don't even go here!"**
**~ Nick Myers**
**(NOTE: Myers is a junior at Chittenango High School)**



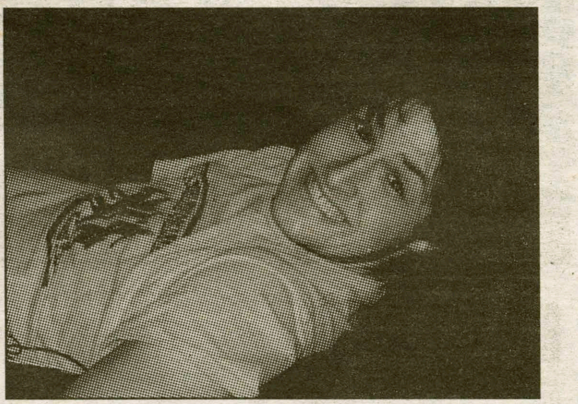
**"My problem is that you just asked me a stupid question!"**
**~ Laura Madison '09**



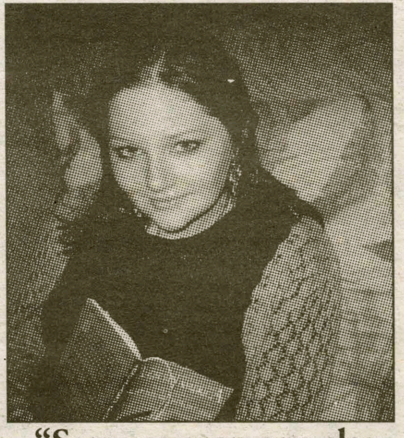
**"I cling to the past too much."**
**~ Peter Lee '07**



**"The lack of reliable toe chesse remedies at CVS."**
**~ Ann Horwitz '06**



**"False public announcements advertising Eric Kuhn's email address."**
**~ David Riordan '09**



**"Same as everyone else at Hamilton: I drink too much."**
**~ Genevieve Davis '06**

**"I don't have time to shave."**
**~ Giorgi Chavleishvili '08**

# Advertisements

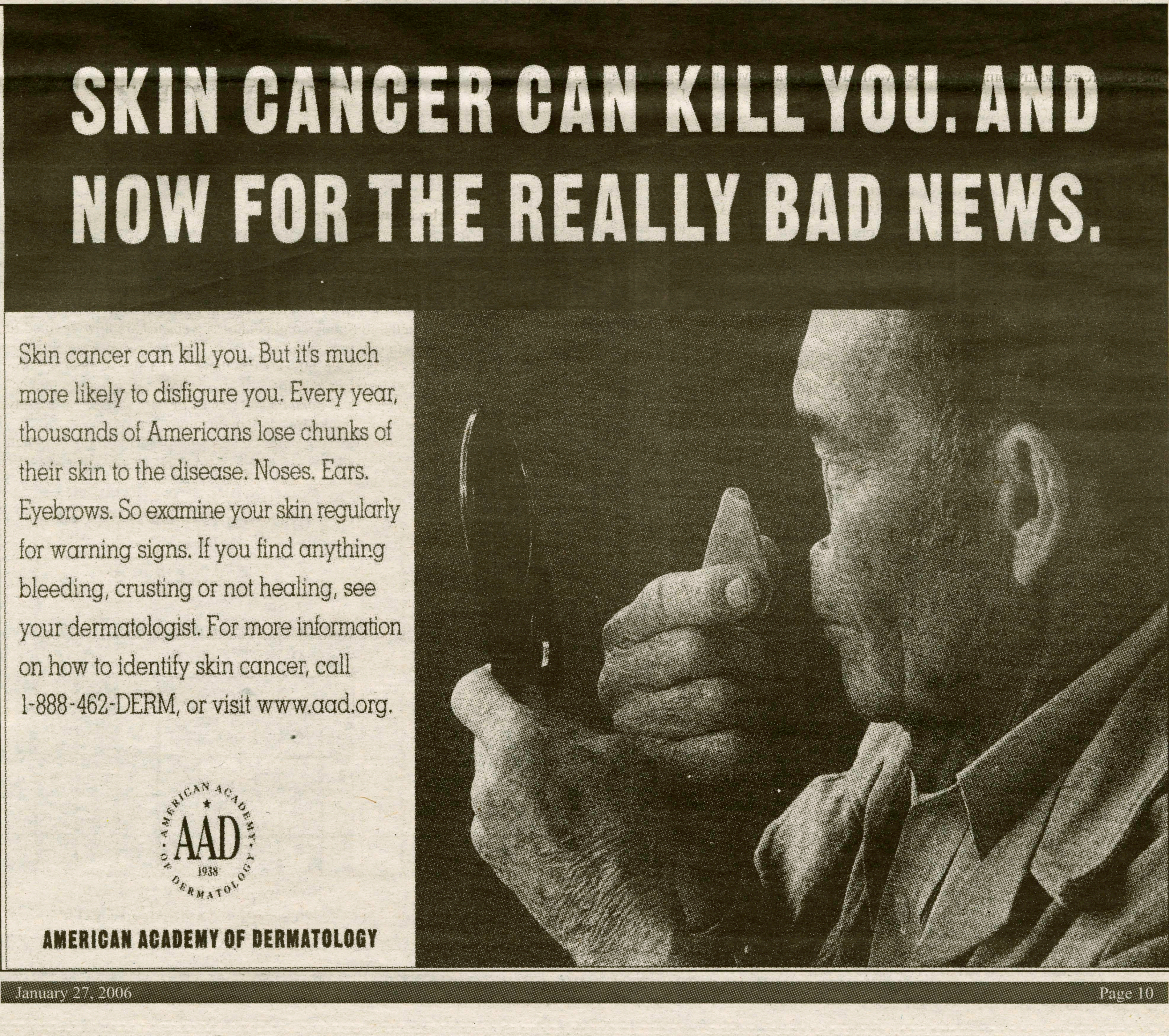
**Important Dates For**
**SENIORS**

**Senior Gift 75% Deadline – March 3rd**
**Trustee Reception for Senior Class – March 3rd, 6 p.m. in the Hub**
**Senior Gift 90% Deadline – April 20**

- **CONGRATULATIONS!** We blew past our 50% participation deadline on December 9 (achieving an unprecedented 60% participation before the second semester) and have now earned a total of $3,000 in challenge money from the Trustees. When we reach **75% participation by March 3rd**, we will receive ***another $3,000*** in trustee challenge money.
- Remember that you may make a donation in honor of someone who has made an impact on your Hamilton experience: a faculty member, family member, administrator or peer.
- If you don't want to contribute to the gift – give to the Annual Fund. It will still help us towards our 100% participation goal.
- It's easy to make your gift: E-mail us to (srgift@hamilton.edu) find a Senior Gift Committee representative in person or do it on-line, TODAY:

**https://www.hamilton.edu/makeagift/.**

**Senior Campaign 2006**
**Class of 2006 Internship Fund**


SKIN CANCER CAN KILL YOU. AND NOW FOR THE REALLY BAD NEWS.

Skin cancer can kill you. But it's much more likely to disfigure you. Every year, thousands of Americans lose chunks of their skin to the disease. Noses. Ears. Eyebrows. So examine your skin regularly for warning signs. If you find anything bleeding, crusting or not healing, see your dermatologist. For more information on how to identify skin cancer, call 1-888-462-DERM, or visit www.aad.org.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY

# Features

## SA hosts meet-and-greet for January Admits

**by Marty Conner '09**
*CONTRIBUTING WRITER*

This past Saturday, students of the class of 2009 gathered in Commons for a snack. It was an opportunity to partake in conversation and cookies, a staple of the college lifestyle. Yet for many of the attendees, it was but their first taste. The snack was hosted by the student government representatives of the class of 2009 in order to provide a friendly environment and opportunity for the newly arrived January Admits and their fellow students in the freshman class to become acquainted.

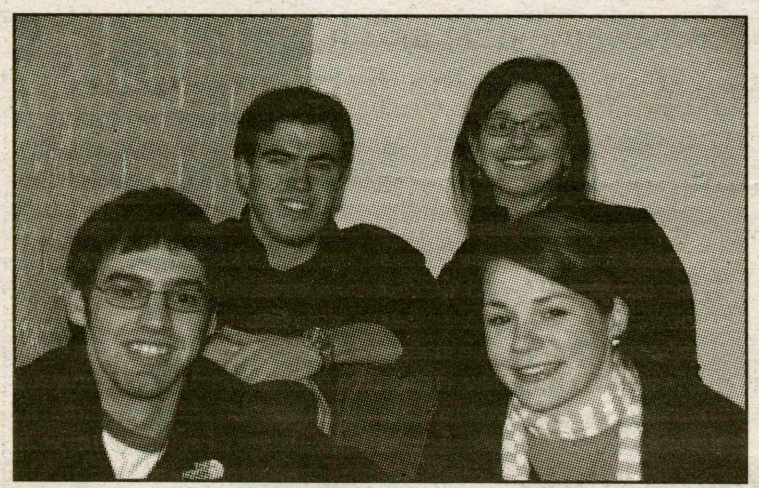


PHOTO CREDIT: DANIEL WITTENBURG '07

**Jan Admits hang out at the snack organized by SA.**

"A bunch of my officers came up with the idea," said Stuart Lombardi, freshman class president. "At one of the class officer meetings we were talking and the idea came up that we should have a class dinner or class snack to get people together, so I asked a few of the officers to come back next week with ideas, and they said how about we throw something for the Jan Admits."

The snack proved to be an exceptionally successful and welcoming event. Over 40 students appeared in the back dining room of Commons during the hour-long snack to socialize in the relaxed and friendly environment, including at least 10 Jan Admits. Bon Appetite provided delicious cookies accompanied by equally delectable frosting and an array of beverages, all free of charge.

Emily Smith, a student government officer of the class of 2009, described the snack as a huge success, going on to say, "The event had a larger turnout than anticipated, and not only Jan Admits, but also other members of the class of 2009 attended. The relaxed setting, food and decorations all contributed to the success of the event."

Overall, both Jan Admits and their colleagues in the class of 2009 felt the event had been a helpful means of easing the integration of the Jan Admits into college life and the class of '09. "Since the whole point of it was to come, say hello, and in effect introduce yourself, I think that it took away some of the awkwardness that introductions usually cause," said Allison Gaston Enholm, another student government officer of the class of '09, "We were all there just trying to break the ice and welcome our new class members to the hill."

Some, however, were a little more skeptical. " The [Jan Admits] can socialize on their own. A lot of us stayed within our Adirondack Adventure groups for a good time before branching out into the unknown world on The Hill. They'll get socialized, but we just want them to be our friends now," said Melissa Balding '09.

Megan Herman, a Jan Admit who attended the event said, "I thought it was fun to meet some fellow classmates but I don't think it necessarily integrated me better into the class. What does that best is going out on the weekends and just getting to spend a whole night talking to people." Yet even so the Jan Admits have found the environment at Hamilton to be extremely positive thus far. Herman went on to say, "As for the students at Hamilton, they are a really great and friendly group of people who are always making us feel welcome."

The event undoubtedly fulfilled its purpose and the intentions of the class of '09 student government representatives, who organized it. "The event was very successful," said Lombardi, "It was a great opportunity for Jan Admits to meet their classmates, and for other members of the class of 2009 to meet the Jan Admits." It extended a friendly welcoming hand to the newest members of our class, and as they begin "branching out into the unknown world of The Hill," according to Lombardi, they will already be acquainted with some of the smiles that will continue to greet them for the next four years.

## Leavenworth Scholarship

### If your last name is Leavenworth, Hamilton could have money for you!

**by Rebekah Mintzer '09**
*FEATURES WRITER*

At Hamilton College and other such institutions of higher learning there are frequently complaints about the inordinate sums spent by students and their families on tuition. This issue is consistently visible both at the collegiate and national levels. Facebook.com even has a group dedicated to college finance woes entitled "Death By Tuition." However, there are many scholarship opportunities available at Hamilton, perhaps the most unusual being a scholarship available only to academically qualified students with the last name Leavenworth.

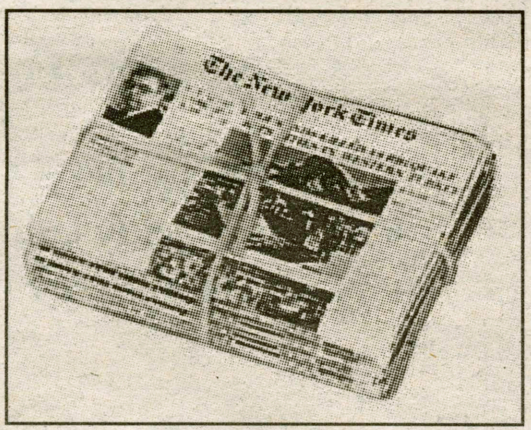


PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWYORKTIMES.COM

**The *New York Times* featured the Lavenworth Scholarship in an article about bizzare scholarships at colleges and universities across America.**

A *New York Times* article, published on January 3, featured the aptly named Leavenworth Scholarship in its investigation of obscure college scholarships today. The concept for the article originated back in December when a classified ad was spotted in the *New York Times* Education Section, asking for any qualified Leavenworth candidates to apply to Hamilton and claim their educational discount. Jennifer York, a freelance writer for the *Times*, then contacted Vige Barrie, director of media relations at Hamilton, and an investigation began that revealed details not only about Hamilton's unusual scholarship, but also about scholarships at other schools with strange requirements.

Elias W. Leavenworth, a U.S. Congressman, and the second mayor of Syracuse, set up the Leavenworth Scholarship in 1873 at Hamilton, Yale and the University of Michigan. As an eminent New Yorker, Leavenworth believed in the advancement of education and the performance of philanthropic works and civic duties. He encouraged these beliefs particularly within his own family, which he believed had ceased to achieve during his generation. This prompted him to set up scholarships for future Leavenworths, so that they could revive the glory days of the Leavenworth line. Although it is uncertain exactly how many Leavenworth scholars there have been in total, it has been a long time since a Leavenworth has been accepted into Hamilton and would thus have been able to receive the scholarship. The last Leavenworth scholar, according to the *New York Times* and Hamilton College, was Benjamin Leavenworth, a 36-year-old business consultant now living and working in Philadelphia. In order to recruit more Leavenworths, Hamilton places adds in major newspapers each year and may even send a representative to a Leavenworth family reunion in Kansas this year to recruit candidates.

However, there is an intriguing twist in the Leavenworth story. Nowhere in Elias W. Leavenworth's documentation of his scholarship does it specify that the Leavenworth receiving the scholarship must have a hereditary connection to him. This presents the issue of prospective students legally changing their names to Leavenworth just to receive the discount on an already expensive education.

"Enforcing scholarship is all about donor intent," says Pamela Havens, director of donor relations at Hamilton. In 2006, it is difficult to tell exactly what Leavenworth's original intent was because the hereditary aspect of the scholarship is not clearly stated. But according to Havens, the presentation of a Leavenworth candidate in the future would warrant a "thorough investigation of background."

The *New York Times* article mentioned other obscure scholarships beyond Hamilton. For example, there is a scholarship for Baptist ministers' daughters at Vassar and another at the College that allows students to be candidates for full scholarship if they can prove that they are descendents of benefactor Calvin Huntington or if they change their middle name legally to Huntington. Jewish orphans can get scholarship toward degrees in aeronautical engineering at the University of California at San Diego, and at Juanita University there is a $1,000 scholarship for lefties. According to scholarshipworkshop.com, some colleges give out scholarships for traits like tallness and obesity. As strange as the Leavenworth scholarship and its counterparts may sound, they are undoubtedly beneficial to the American population because they promote the invaluable tool of a college education.

## Sudoku puzzle of the week

**by Evelyn Shapiro '06**
*FEATURES WRITER*

Hundreds of newspapers around the world have been publishing daily Sudoku puzzles that push people to use logic and reasoning skills. People from all over have found themselves addicted to Sudoku and countless websites are now devoted to the subject.

The Sudoku puzzles that have taken the world by storm started in Japan as a form of crosswords. *Su* means "number" in Japanese and *doku* means "bachelor" or "single," so loosely translated, Sudoku means "single number."

The rules of the game are easy. Just place the digits 1 through 9 in the cells of the puzzles so that each digit appears only once in each square, row and column.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 7 | 6 | | | 1 | | |
| | 8 | 4 | | 3 | | | | |
| 1 | 5 | | | | | | 6 | |
| | | | | 8 | 6 | 2 | | |
| | 7 | | 9 | | 5 | | 8 | |
| | | 6 | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | 7 | 6 |
| | | | | 6 | | 4 | 5 | |
| | | 5 | | | 4 | 3 | | |

**From "Super Sudoku, Book 2," by James E. Riley, PhD. Published by Good Year Books, 2005.**

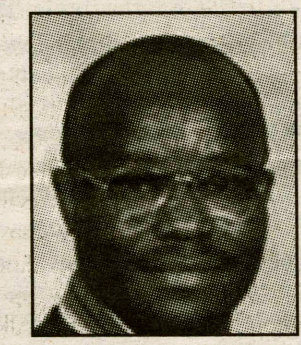
# *Professor Profile: Joseph Mwantuali*

## Associate Professor of French with special interest in African Literature and Culture

**by Megan Kase '09**
*FEATURES WRITER*

A native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a teacher since 1975, Joseph Mwantuali of the French department brings a very unique perspective to Hamilton's campus. Mwantuali was born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's capital, Kinshasa, where most of his family still resides. After completing his bachelor's degree in French literature and African linguistics from the University of Zaire, Mwantuali started working for the Peace Corps Training Center in the Congo and later in Burundi. He began teaching French and Lingala, which later evolved into an eight-year career at the Peace Corps where he was promoted as a language coordinator. "I loved the hands-on work of teaching, but language coordinating brought good skills management and good experiences in human resources," said Mwantuali.

Working at the Peace Corps Training Center in the Congo, one of the larger training centers, was not only helpful in keeping close proximity to his family, but also in acclimating himself to American culture. When he moved to the United States in 1989, Mwantuali did not find the change to be too shocking. "At the training center, I lived with Americans so it was not a hard transition for me." Upon his arrival in the United States, Mwantuali attended New Hampshire College, now Southern New Hampshire University, for his masters in economic development and Pennsylvania State University for his Ph.D. in French and African literature. After completing his Ph.D., Mwantuali came to Hamilton College as a member of the French department in 1995. Hamilton, the first college he interviewed, impressed Mwantuali, who was "looking for a small college and liked the ambience."


WWW.HAMILTON.EDU
**Professor Mwantuali.**

Teaching comes naturally to Mwantuali, whose father was also a teacher. Since 1975, Mwantuali has taught French to all levels from first grade, to high school, to college and adults. Mwantuali enjoys teaching French literature, which strikes a cord with him as a writer. However, teaching language is particularly meaningful for him as a teacher. "I teach French 110 here with students who start not knowing any French. Towards the end of the semester they can actually speak it and I love seeing the progression," stated Mwantuali.

In addition to language courses, Mwantuali teaches twentieth century French literature, African and Caribbean literature and cultures at Hamilton. Mwantuali said, "In cultures [courses], we focus on Canadian, Caribbean and African cultures. It's a survey with cooking, music, fashion and language. It's not just about politics; we have fun." In addition to teaching, Mwantuali has devoted plenty of time and attention in collecting pieces of Africa cinema. "Over eleven years, I have built a good Francophone African library with a lot of help from the librarians in Burke and the media library. There are about 20 movies from documentaries, politics, adventures in French with English subtitles," stated Mwantuali.

Moreover, Mwantuali has devoted plenty of time and energy into his writing, publishing two books. His first book, "Michael Leiris Et Le Negro-Africain," was published in 1999. "It's a theory book about the meeting of Africa and France," said Mwantuali, who wrote about the "iconoclastic" ethnographer Leiris. "Leiris went into Africa intending to study, but in the end criticized France," explained Mwantuali. In order to complete his research for this book, which was a part of his dissertation, Mwantuali traveled to France, working with a large number of anthropology museums.

Mwantuali's second book, "Septuagenaire," a collection of short stories, was published in 2000. The first story was written in 1989 and was rewarded a prize in a contest between Canadian and Congon writers. He started to assemble the collection in 1995, including stories that criticize dictatorship in Africa from the point of view of a wise man. During his sabbatical in the spring of 2004, Mwantuali wrote another piece of fiction called "L'impair de la nation," which is another political piece. "Everyone is accepting domination, but the odd one is not accepting it," Mwantuali stated. He completed the manuscript in one very intense month and is currently working on contracts with various publishers. Mwantuali is about to embark on writing another theory book about African politics in the world.

Mwantuali is very passionate about the opportunities that foreign language can provide. He thinks that studying a foreign language should be an obligation. Language offers, "...a window to the world. In Africa, if you can speak English and French, you can do anything," he said. Despite the lack of a language requirement and having a small department, Mwantuali is quite impressed that there are currently 28 French majors and 116 French students. "You'd be surprised how important French is around the world," said Mwantuali.

### Quick Facts

**Professor Mwantuali...**

**...has worked for the Peace Corps.**

**...has taught at Hamilton since 1995.**

**...has published two books.**

**...is currently writing a theory book about African politics in the world.**

# *Donut comparison*

## Weekly comparison between foods students love

**by Sam Gitlitz '08**
*FEATURES WRITER*

Donuts are a longtime favorite food of college students. Most of us get our fix from Commons during Sunday brunch, but for those of you who crave some during the week, here's the lowdown on who makes the best donut around. Three different donuts were pitted against each other in a taste test to distinguish what flavors, textures and glaze made for the best donut. The contenders were glazed from Dunkin' Donuts, a "glazed ring" from Hannaford's bakery, and a Hostess variety pack.

**Dunkin' Donuts:** The overall favorite of the test, Dunkin's glazed doughnut balanced the sweet dough with the glaze to provide an exceptional pastry. Afterhaving tasted the other doughnuts, Brian Greenleaf '08 said, "That's a good donut," following his first bite. The donut did not have a uniform glaze which is vital in avoiding sticky fingers. Dunkin' Donuts had the sweetest glaze by far, but it wasn't overpowering as some other doughnut companies' glazes are. Another tester said, "Very delicious, good texture, not like Hostess." Clearly we know what his least favorite was. Each Dunkin' Donut goes for 80 cents, which isn't too bad, and they always offer their coffee and two doughnut combo for around $3.

**Hannaford's "Glazed Ring":** Second favorite, and while the name isn't straightforward, there are no surprises with this donut. Those who found the Dunkin' Donut a little too sweet preferred Hannaford's. Everyone noticed a difference in the texture and flavor of the glaze from the others. Hannaford's glaze was thicker and more uniform, but did not stick to the fingers as much as it did to the donut. Some found it on the dry side, but its flavor was ranked as "pretty good." It should also be mentioned that Hannaford's provides a more economically efficient donut. It's bigger than the competitors and is offered at 55 cents a piece; good to know, as Hannaford's will soon be closer than D.D.

**Hostess' Variety Pack:** The chocolate glazed donut was tasted from the variety pack. Dan Whittenberg's '07 remark sums up the donut, "This is disgusting, it doesn't even taste like chocolate."

---

*Editor's note: All testing reflects food and products that can be bought locally*

### New to Features!

**The Weekly Food Comparison is now a bi-weekly column, alternating with the Where to Eat column.**

**The Weekly Food Comparison will sample a certain food each week and rate each brand based on Hamilton students' opinions.**

**Where to Eat will be back next week to review local resaurants in the area.**

---

*If you would like to contribute your opinion to the Weekly Food Comparison column, please contact-Sam Gitlitz at sgitlitz@hamilton.edu or x2273.*

# Focus on Fitness: Going to the gym

**by Michelle Butler '06**
*FEATURES WRITER*

In last week's "Thumbs Up Thumbs Down," a Thumbs Down was given to the masses of people who clogged the fitness center upon returning to the hill. The writers so wittingly commented that New Year's resolutions may have caused this mob, but because few actually maintain those resolutions, the crowd will hopefully diminish soon.

As a fitness enthusiast, I absolutely love going to the gym. Depending on what time of the day I go, I usually see the same people there every day: the regulars. I, too, have noticed the mad dash of more and more students to the gym. I'd like to say that it annoys me, but then again, it is a communal space for all students and faculty to exercise, so I can't blame everyone else for going. I would actually encourage everyone to keep up with their resolutions and general efforts to get into better shape, because exercise will increase your overall energy and longevity while simultaneously decreasing your stress and anxiety levels.

However, us regulars tend to get a bit overwhelmed by frustration when too many people need the so few cardio machines and weights. It might sound a bit ridiculous, but there is a sort of conduct that you learn after countless sessions of sweating it out in there.

If you just started working out at the Hamilton fitness center this semester, or were planning on getting there eventually but need more information or inspiration, here are a few tips I've learned over the last three and a half years:

**1.** The absolute worst time to go to the gym is during the 4-5 p.m. slot. Classes typically end at 3:45 p.m., so everyone heads to the gym to squeeze in a workout before dinner, work and extracurricular activities. The basketball and track teams occupy the fieldhouse and Alumni Gym, which therefore leaves the fitness center as the sole available workout space at this time. Also, the male lacrosse team usually starts lifting together at this time, so the free weights room is generally off-limits, forcing all others to lift together on that small mat in the fitness center.

If you can find another time in your schedule to workout, I strongly advise you to workout at a time alternative to 4 p.m. to avoid the sweaty chaotic mess. If you go to the gym mostly to socialize, then by all means go at 4, because there will definitely be plenty of opportunity to chat as you wait for a machine. But if you like to get in the zone and concentrate on your mind and body as I do, then opt for a different time. The fitness center is open Monday-Friday from 8a.m.-11p.m., and on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

**2.** Speaking of socializing, if and when you do go to the gym, and you see someone you know who is in the middle of an intense workout, the best thing to do is to wave and smile, maybe say a quick "Hi!" but move on. That's all you need to do. Don't ignore people or pretend you don't see them because that just feeds into the absolutely unnecessary concept of the "Hamilton Cool." You should be polite but don't engage them in deep conversation while they are panting and sweating profusely. It's annoying to them, and it's annoying to the person on the adjacent machine who has to listen to your conversation.

**3.** If you are the kind of person who needs to be distracted from the time you have left on the stationary bike, stairclimber or elliptical, I highly suggest that you bring your own magazine or other reading material. The free literature on the front desk usually consists of outdated, trashy tabloids. Occasionally there might be a *Time* or *ESPN* magazine, but those also tend to be outdated. Plus so many people use and abuse the readings that you have to spend half your machine time figuring out which page goes where or picking up the pages from the floor when the whole thing falls apart for the fourth time.

I like to run on the treadmill without any form of distraction, but for the other machines, I usually bring either a health/fitness magazine or an inspirational book to rescue me from boredom. If I'm really crunched for time, I bring a reading from class, but we ought to maintain a habit of viewing the gym as an escape or release from school. Bringing negatively associated materials into a positive environment will detract from the potential therapeutic benefits for which you went to the gym in the first place.

**4.** When you are done with a cardio or weight machine, PLEASE pick up a paper towel from the front desk, spray disinfectant onto it, and wipe down the machine. Especially at the 4 p.m. sauna hour, a multitude of sweat-soaked individuals will come into contact with a machine. The next person who uses the elliptical does not want to see the slime on the handle you left after using that hand to wipe off forehead grease, nor the sweat stain that your behind so nicely imprinted on the bench press. Not only is it common courtesy but a matter of hygiene. I shudder to think of the billions of bacteria happily thriving in that room…

That's all I shall divulge for now. There are several others that I am sure the regulars would insist I include, such as how we almost laugh at those who show up to workout in an "outfit" and make-up. Most of us go to stay in shape, de-stress, etc., and not merely to be seen. We sweat a LOT, we look like crap, and we're proud of it.

Overall, I highly recommend you keep or start going to the fitness center. It's not the biggest or the best facility, but it's a great outlet for alleviating the academic and social stress we endure as college students. It's important to make time for yourself, so find a time that works for you, figure out a routine you're comfortable with, and exercise your worries away. If you're really struggling to fit a visit to the gym into your busy schedule, there are definitely ways you can stay in shape without going to the gym. Next week I'll share alternative methods for those of you too busy or too lazy to bond with your sneakers and gym shorts.

**Do you want to write for *The Spectator?***

**We thought you did!**

**E-mail Emily Maltby (emaltby) or Whitney Kimmel (wkimmel) with questions and ideas for the Features section.**

**Writers for the Feature section cover student-interest articles, investigative pieces and other related stories.**

## *Weekly Events: Where you want to be!*

| Fri. | Sat. | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B.S.U. Meeting (5:00)<br>W. Basketball v. Clarkson HOME (6:00)<br>M. Hockey v. Tufts HOME (7:00)<br>M. Basketball v. Clarkson HOME (8:00)<br>Senior Dance Projects (8:00-9:00) | Anime Club (2:00-3:00)<br>W. Basketball v. St. Lawrence HOME (2:00)<br>M. Hockey v. Conn. College HOME (3:00)<br>M. Basketball v. St. Lawrence (4:00)<br>Senior Dance Projects (8:00-9:00) | Chinese New Year<br>Community Church: "Is Christ Divided?" (11:00-12:15)<br>Newman Mass (1:00-2:00) | Biology Seminar (4:00)<br>HOC Open Hours (7:00) | Newman Mass (12:00)<br>CACC Meeting (3:00)<br>W. Basketball v. Middlebury HOME (7:00) | Gallery Talk and Tour (12:00-1:00)<br>Liberating "MEDEA": Political Theater (12:00-1:00)<br>C.A.B. Meeting (7:00-8:00)<br>Interviewing Skills Workshop (7:30-8:30) | Newman Mass (12:00)<br>First Steps to Finding a CRE (12:00-1:00)<br>Lecture: 17th Century Enviornmental Protest Lit. (4:10-6:00)<br>HOC Open Hours (7:00) |
| Film on Movie Channel: Constant Gardener | Film on Movie Channel: Constant Gardener | Film on Movie Channel: Constant Gardener | | | | |

# Know the facts about... Tae Kwon Do

**by Ashley Stagner '09**
*FEATURES WRITER*

There exists at Hamilton a club that many do not know about. This is truly a shame because the Tae Kwon Do club is not only about physical defense, but also helps to improve humility, patience, respect (for yourself and others) and mental strength. The club was actually started about six or seven years ago by a couple of students along with Grand Master Y.J. George and has now expanded to 27 members. This is almost double the size from last year.

The members meet in the Alumni gym from 8 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday nights, and then again on Saturday mornings at Grand Master. Y.J. George's Tae Kwon Do & Hapkido school in New Hartford from 10 to 12. This semester, however, the Tuesday night meetings might change to a different location on Wednesdays.

One of the setbacks for the club is that every semester they have to fight with the athletic department for space. Now that Tae Kwon Do has so much energy and support behind it, the members really need a place to call home. They have been moved often from the Alumni Gym and at one point resorted to practicing in the squash courts. The club is really hoping that when Saunders is renovated there will be a room that all the martial art clubs can use. This room would hopefully have mirrors, carpeting and some equipment.

Like all martial arts, Tae Kwon Do uses belts to rank people. Beginners start with a sweat belt, earn a yellow stripe, then yellow belt, green stripe, green belt, blue stripe, blue belt, red stripe, red belt, two black stripes and then finally the black belt. Once a person has earned their red belt, it can be years before they can earn the black. Generally at Hamilton, students can progress a belt a year, earning a stripe at the end of a semester. However, it is possible for a student to be demoted if they do not work hard enough. Most students practice every day, as though it was a varsity sport, and it takes continual practices at the Tae Kwon Do school to really advance in hopes of reaching a black belt by the time they graduate.

This summer students were able to train here and later went to a tournament. Melissa Kong '08 won a third place medal and Keigo Shimura '07 and Marco Allodi '08 both won first place in their divisions. This was the first tournament the club had ever participated in and they look forward to attending a tournament later this semester.

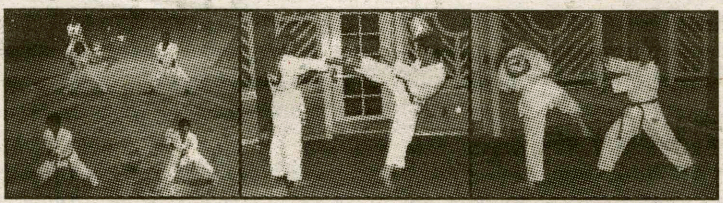


PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY MALTBY '06

**Hamilton students train in the martial art of Tae Kwon Do, which teaches discipline and respect.**

For a tournament, the participants are categorized by weight and belt. During the match, the students must put all of their knowledge into a combination of moves in which to defeat their opponent. This quick thinking improves their mental awareness and defense.

The club's practice begins with bowing to the senior belts and other instructors in order to show their respect and humbleness. In return, the senior belts and instructors bow to them. They line up in the gym according to belt rank, and by Lee's order, they first bow to the American and Korean flags, then Masters, instructors, and the senior black belt, Lee. During the first fifteen minutes they do a variety of stretches, then they move to a series of lower body kicking drills, and later they combine those with upper body punching drills. As a student progresses and gets ranked higher, they learn more patterns of greater difficulty. The end of practice usually involves kicking drills with punching bags and sparring (free fighting with gear on).

As the club started growing, they wanted to make a bigger impact on campus life. This past August they gave a demonstration for Hurricane Katrina relief. This was the first big thing they had ever done, and in the process, it helped to make the club more well-known on campus.

Amanda Hannoosh '06 and Emily Maltby '06 are the only two seniors who have been in the club since their freshman year. Back then there were fewer than ten people and practice was only once a week. Maltby says that, "last year the club really got rolling. I was abroad, so I didn't get to see it, but I am amazed by the increase [of people]."

Master Friedman helps to train the students on Tuesdays and has helped the club since the beginning. Maltby claims that Master Friedman "is a God send, and one of the nicest people I have ever met. He is incredibly supportive. He pressures us to do our best but not to the breaking point".

Lee started learning Tae Kwon Do when he was five years old and continued training for ten years. Currently, he is the only member of the club who has a black belt, and in fact joined the club his freshman year already with it, having earned it when he was fifteen. His master had him train six times a week, and through this strict regiment he learned to have pride for Tae Kwon Do and also to be kind, humble and patient. Lee still remembers what his master told him when he received his black belt: "I am not giving this belt to you. However, this is what you earn and you will never misuse it."

When Lee came to Hamilton as a freshman and heard about the club, he joined right away. Lee is the captain of the club, although he is unsure as to how he came to be called that. His job is to support and help the club to grow, so that students can train in Tae Kwon Do with pride and dedication. His own personal goal is, "to train hard with Hamilton students so that by the time I graduate we will have another black belt in the Hamilton College Tae Kwon Do Club."

Lee says one interesting thing about Tae Kwon Do is that, "Tae Kwon Do, or any martial art, is not only for those strong and big people, but people with strong minds and warm hearts. So, try us!"

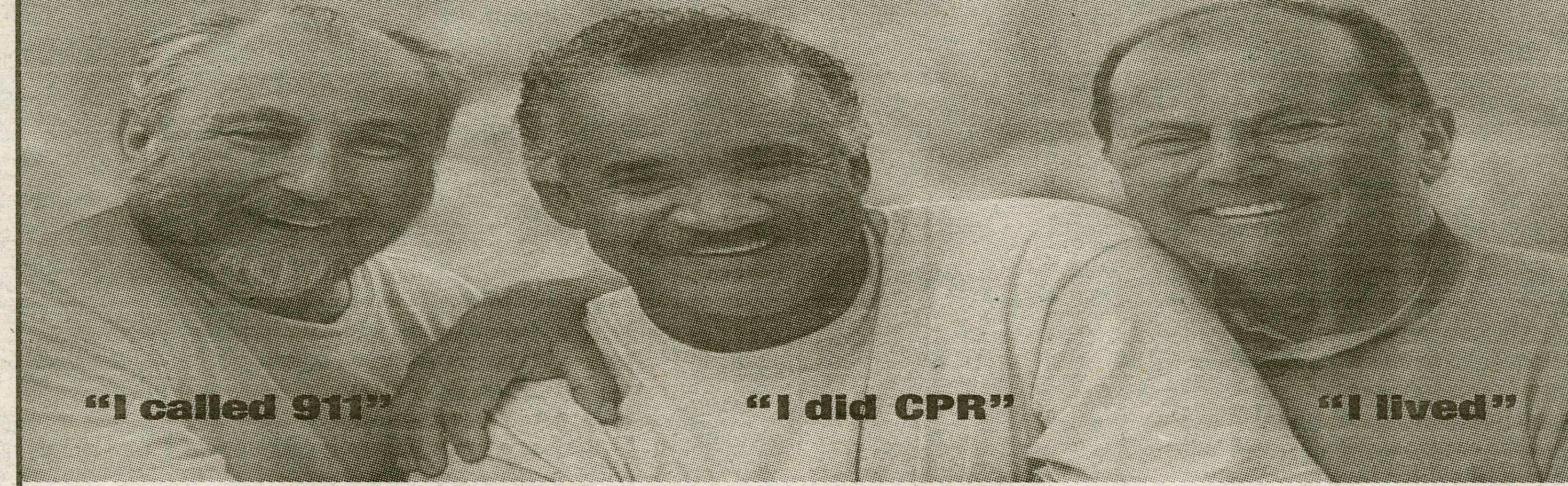
Kong the co-president of the club along with Allodi, had never taken a martial arts class before, but she heard about it through an e-mail and decided to try it for self-defense. She says she never expected it to become such a big part of her life. Kong says, "Your team becomes like your second family. We all support one another. You get to meet amazing people that you may never have talked to outside the club. What strikes me about Tae Kwon Do is that it's a sport, but at the same time, an art. It's challenging and a hard workout, but at the same time, serene, peaceful and mentally, emotionally, spiritually rejuvenating".

Kong says that two of the advantages about Tae Kwon Do is that there is no discrimination in ranking, and that a student learns humility because there can be ten year old black belts that lower belts have to listen to. She also says that Tae Kwon Do is a big stress reliever.

Pragyan Pradhan '08 joined the club this year and found out about it because some of his friends were in it. After he went, he realized how much he liked it. He keeps doing it because it is a good means of exercise and for defense purposes. Since he started he has wanted to go further. He hopes that in the future there will be more tournaments and better training; currently, they are dependent on other people, and Pradhan believes it would be better if they had someone on campus. He says that the club is doing a great job and believes it will continue to do so in the future.

Elizabeth Kelly '09 also joined the club this year, and she joined because she "liked the idea of being able to defend myself and take down my big brother in a fight. Also, my grandmother did Tae Kwon Do, so now we have something in common." She learned about the club through the e-mail sent out in the beginning of the year. Kelly would like to see more people join and try it. She didn't know much when she began, but now she loves it.

The only main requirement for the club is a dedication to pushing yourself physically and mentally. If you are willing to dedicate time to the club and not just attend random classes, then you are in. You don't have to be an amazing athlete to do it and you don't need any prior experience. Just be willing to learn and to stick to it when it seems difficult.



If someone near you collapses, loses consciousness and stops breathing, chances are their heart has stopped. Call 9-1-1 immediately and do CPR until help arrives. If you don't know CPR, learn. To find a CPR course near you, call the American Heart Association at **1-877-AHA-4CPR** or visit us online at **www.americanheart.org**.

American Heart Association®
*Learn and Live*℠

This space provided as a public service. © 2000, American Heart Association

# Advertisements

**Pizza Place**

Hamilton College and Clinton's Favorite Pizza
Hand Tossed New York Style Thin Crust
Home of the Super Slice and Super Pie

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY**

Order ahead.
Order game day.
Place your order & we'll bring it to you.
Plenty of extra staff for your convenience.

**853-2100**
**853-2110**

**Major credit cards, check and cash accepted.**

WE DELIVER OPEN TILL CLOSE

THE ARBOR INN
At
Griffin House

*"Experience one of Clinton's finest Bed & Breakfasts"*
*All the amenities of a hotel along with all the comforts of home*

Wireless internet access
Televisions - DVD players
Full breakfast
24 Hr. coffee & tea availability

Conveniently located one turn off Hamilton's campus
3919 Griffin Road
859.1790 888.424.3074
www.arborinnatgriffinhouse.com

**Walk to class** from this mint-condition, 3431 sq. ft., 5 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath colonial with 3-car garage and in-ground pool. For rent at 2,500/Mo. or sale at $398,000. Will rent with option to buy.

7130 College Hill Road

View at http://www.circlepix.com/home/wma493

Great investment potential.
Owner / broker 315-853-8025.
Jfoote@mindspring.com

LINDFIELD
TRANSMISSION REPAIR

TECH-NET Professional AUTO SERVICE

Family Owned & Operated
Over 35 Years
*Master Certified Experience*

From Rebuilds to New Transmissions
We Offer Excellent Prices On Transmission Services
Oil Changes•Air Conditioning•Diagnostic Work•Brakes•Clutches
Electric Service•Driveability Problems•Differentials•Underbody Exhaust

2708A State Route 315, Deansboro
**841-8004**
VISA

*Movieplex 9* ONEIDA
WWW.HOLLYWOOD.COM
RTE.5 & 46 GLENWOOD SHOPPING PLAZA
24 HRS MOVIE INFO 363-6422

BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 STADIUM SEATING MARTIN LAWRENCE
●12:45●2:50▲5:00-7:10-9:20 DTS PG-13

WINNER OF 4 GOLDEN GLOBES INCLUDING BEST PICTURE AND BEST DIRECTOR
STADIUM SEATING HEATH LEDGER
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN ●1:30▲4:15-7:00-9:40 DTS R

Nanny McPhee
●12:40●2:45▲4:50-6:50-8:50 DTS PG

WINNER OF GOLDEN GLOBE BEST SUP. ACTOR
SYRIANNA ▲4:10-8:40 DTS R

UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION
●12:20●2:30▲5:05-7:20-9:30 #1 MOVIE! R

HOODWINKED ●12:40●2:40▲4:40-6:40-8:35 PG

DISNEY'S GLORY ROAD
●12:05●2:25▲4:45-7:05-9:25 PG

LAST HOLIDAY ●12:15●2:35▲4:55-7:15-9:35 PG-13

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
●12:30●3:30-6:30-9:15 PG

FUN WITH DICK & JANE 6:45 PG-13

CHEAPER BY DOZEN 2 ●12:00●2:05 PG

▲TWILITES NITELY●$4.50 MATINEES FRI-SAT-SUN
ADMISSION W/COLLEGE ID $5.50

# Advertisements

**MORE CULTURE. LESS SHOCK.**

There's a side to every culture that may seem a little strange to you. We help prepare you for the unexpected, so you can make the most of your overseas study experience. While you may be studying on the other side of the world, you'll feel right at home with IFSA-Butler.

Institute for Study Abroad
BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Australia New Zealand | Spain | Latin America | England Scotland | Ireland

See your study abroad advisor for more information.
Ask about our program books or visit us at www.ifsa-butler.org

© Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University, 2006

---

PIZZERIA
**GRANDES**
RESTAURANT
OF CLINTON
**853-7700**

12 East Park Row
Clinton, NY 13323

**10%OFF**
off of all purchases
for Hamilton Students
with ID and this Coupon

*Specials*

**Small Pizza & 20 Wings**
**10.75**

**Large Pizza & 25 Wings**
**17.95**

**Large Pizza & 50 Wings**
**19.95**

*Specialty Pizzas*

| | |
|---|---|
| Round Tomato Pie | 6.75 |
| Garlic Pizza | 8.95 |
| Garlic Broccoli Pizza | 10.95 |
| Garlic, Hot Peppers, Black Olives & Tomato | 13.95 |
| Buffalo Chicken Pizza (Med., Hot & BBQ Sauce) | 13.95 |
| Grandes Famous Upside Down Pizza Marinara Sauce Topped With Grated Cheese | 9.95 |

Items
Broccoli, Eggplant, Sausage, Mushrooms, Pepperoni, Peppers, Onions, Meatballs, Spinach, Anchovies, Double Cheese, Black Olives

*Pizza*

| | Small | Large |
|---|---|---|
| Cheese | 6.00 | 8.95 |
| 1 Item | 6.75 | 9.95 |
| 2 Items | 7.50 | 10.95 |
| 3 Items | 7.75 | 11.95 |
| 4 Items | 8.50 | 12.95 |

Small = 8 pieces    Large = 16 pieces

*Slices*

| | |
|---|---|
| Garlic Slices | 1.16 each + tax |
| Pizza Slices | 1.16 each + tax |
| Extras | 35c each |

| | |
|---|---|
| 10 Wings | 4.75 |
| 20 Wings | 6.75 |
| 30 Wings | 8.75 |
| 40 Wings | 11.95 |
| 50 Wings | 13.95 |
| 60 Wings | 15.95 |
| 70 Wings | 17.95 |
| 80 Wings | 19.95 |
| 90 Wings | 21.95 |
| 100 Wings | 24.95 |
| 150 Wings | 35.00 |
| 200 Wings | 46.00 |
| 250 Wings | 54.00 |

Frank's RedHot

Celery
85¢ Extra
Bleu Cheese
85¢ Extra

Buffalo Style
CHICKEN WINGS

# Advertisements

INFORMATION SESSION

Union Graduate College

*(Located on the Union College Campus)*
Schenectady, New York

**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT MBA DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Featuring information on The 2006 President's Scholarship at Hamilton College - A competitive scholarship award for 1-2 Hamilton College students for fall admission into the Union MBA or MBA in Healthcare Management programs.

Tuesday January 31st
12:00-1:00pm
Bristol Campus Center 3rd floor
Lunch included
Please register through e-Recruiting

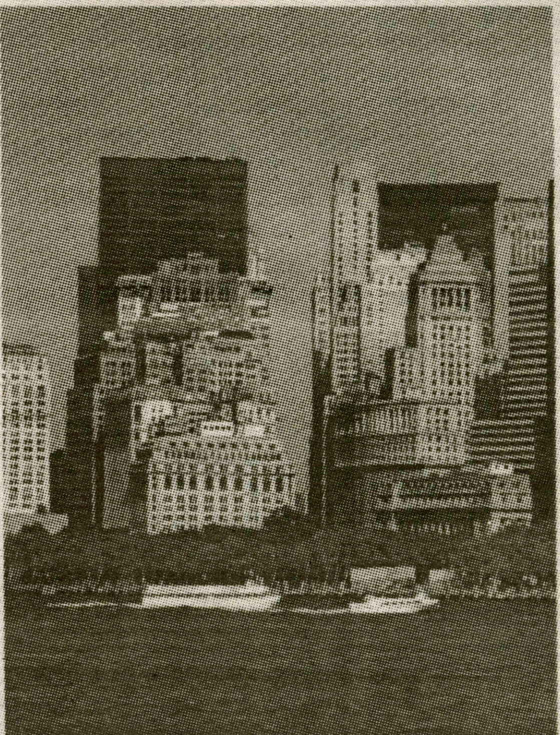
**Impressive career placement rates**
**Career building internship program**
**Vibrant capital district economic community**
**World-class AACSB accreditation**
**Dedicated exclusively to graduate education**

**The Graduate College**
*of* UNION UNIVERSITY

**518-388-8387**
**Joanne Fitzgerald fitzgerj@union.edu**

**Eastern College Career Day in New York at the McGraw Hill Building**

**Friday, March 24, 2006**
**9:00 am - 5:00 p.m.**



**Opportunities in Publishing, Law, Teaching, Advertising and More!**

**Interview with up to 13 Employers!**

**Application Deadline: February 10**

**For More Information see:**

**http://www.hamilton.edu/college/career/recruiting/nyc.html**

# Arts & Entertainment

## F.I.L.M. series returns for second semester

**By Ciara Putrello**
*Communications Assistant*

Hamilton College announces its spring film and lecture series, F.I.L.M (Forum for Images and Languages in Motion), scheduled on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evenings. All events are free and open to the public.

"When you walk out of one of our events, you should know something, specifically something about media history, that you were not aware of when you walked in," says organizer and Hamilton Visiting Professor of Art History Scott MacDonald. "My hope is that our programs will bridge this gap, offering regular, entertaining education in film history and current practice to the campus and to central New York."

All Sunday series programs will be held in Kirner-Johnson Auditorium at 2 p.m. All Monday and Tuesday evening programs will be held in Kirner-Johnson auditorium at 7 p.m. and will be introduced and contextualized by MacDonald.

Listed below are events scheduled for February through April:

***Sunday, Feb. 5, at 2 p.m.***

Tom Gunning lectures on Louie Fuller.

Tom Gunning, Bergman Distinguished Service Professor in the Art History Department at the University of Chicago, will present a lecture on Louie Fuller, illustrated with examples of the films that documented her performances. Gunning is one of the world's leading scholars of film history and American studies; his writing has been formative in the study of the origins of cinema.

***Monday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.***

Stan Brakhage, 1: "Relearning to See."

When Stan Brakhage died in March 2003, a New York Times obituary included this quote: "In the entire history of the medium, when all the pop-culture interests have faded, a hundred years from now, [Brakhage] will be considered the preeminent artist of the 20th century." Brakhage's most important films include "The Wonder Ring" (1955), "Window Water Baby Moving" (1959), "Prelude: Dog Star Man" (1962) and "Three Films: Bluewhite/Blood's Tone/Vein" (1965).

***Sunday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m.***

An "Art in Cinema" Program.

From 1946 until 1954 Frank Stauffacher's Art in Cinema Film Society energized the Bay Area cultural scene with screenings of a wide range of film events and helped to transform American film culture. Hamilton professor Scott MacDonald will present a selection of films that were of particular importance to the film society, including Maya Deren's "A Study in Choreography for Camera" (1945), Oskar Fischinger's "Motion Painting No. 1" (1947), Sidney Peterson's "The Lead Shoes" (1949), James Davis's "Light Reflections" (1949) and James Broughton's "Mother's Day" (1948).

***Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.***

Special Valentine's Day double feature: "The Freshman" (1925) by Harold Lloyd and "The Marriage Circle" (1924) by Ernst Lubitsch.

"The Freshman" was the most popular comedy of the '20s and for good reason; its depiction of Harold Lamb, a college freshman who will do anything to be popular, remains both romantic and funny. Ernst Lubitsch's "The Marriage Circle" was a favorite of both Chaplin and Hitchcock.

***Sunday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m.***

Mitman presents "Glamorous Species."

Mitman, Professor of Science and Technology Studies at the University of Wisconsin, and author of "Reel Nature: America's Romance with Wildlife on Film" (Harvard), will explore "how scientific research, film, and cultural values came together in the meteoric rise to fame of two glamorous species, dolphins and elephants, and how that stardom has shaped international conservation politics in particular ways." Mitman's presentation includes excerpts from "Revenge of the Creature from the Black Lagoon" (with Flippy the dolphin) and "The Family that Lived with Elephants."

***Monday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m.***

Homage to Canyon Cinema.

In 1960 in Canyon, California, a tiny town over the hills from Berkeley, Bruce Baillie founded what he called Canyon Cinema. At first an anarchic neighborhood screening room, Canyon grew up to become the San Francisco Cinematheque and Canyon Cinema Distribution. During the '60s Canyon became a nexus for a "school" of West Coast filmmaking that was sensual, poetic, often funny and sometimes outrageous. We'll present a program of short films by filmmakers connected with Canyon Cinema, including Bruce Baillie's "Tung" (1966), Robert Nelson's "Oh Dem Watermelons" (1965), Bruce Baillie's "Castro Street" (1966), Bruce Conner's "Marilyn Times Five" (1969), Gunvor Nelson's "Take Off" (1972), Anne Severson's "Near the Big Chakra" (1972) and Chick Strand's "Kirstallnacht" (1978).

***Sunday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m.***

Peter Hutton presents "Landscapes of the Sea" (a film in progress).

Peter Hutton has been making major contributions to American independent cinema for more than 30 years. His lovely, meditative depictions of landscape, cityscape, seascape and riverscape are distinctive and memorable, and they have been widely influential. Ken Burns, a one-time student of Hutton's, has called his mentor "a national treasure." Hutton will present a new film, in progress as this is written, tentatively called "Landscapes of the Sea." It was shot in Bangladesh, South Korea, and on a freighter crossing the Atlantic in winter. He is chair of the Film and Electronic Arts Department at Bard College.

***Sunday, March 5, at 2 p.m.***

(Science Auditorium) Darwin's Nightmare (2004) by Hubert Sauper.

Some time in the 1960s, in the heart of Africa, a new animal was introduced into Lake Victoria as a scientific experiment. The Nile perch, a voracious predator, extinguished almost the entire stock of the native fish species. The white fillets of the Nile perch are to

*see **F.I.L.M., page 19***

## Asian Movie Review

**By Noah Wright '08**
*Arts & Entertainment Writer*

I know what you're thinking as you're reading this column right now: "Here's going to be another glowing review of some freaky movie that hasn't been released in the United States yet." And you're right, but only partially right. This will not be a glowing review because the film in question, "Casshern," sucked.

"Casshern" is a live-action adaptation of an anime of the same name. Having seen the anime years prior to the film, I remembered it being about a half-man, half-robot who helps the human race fight this enormous army of evil robots in some apocalyptic future, basically the videogame "Megaman" with a plot. Sounds fairly simple, no? To quote "A History of Violence," "HOW DO YOU (expletive) THIS UP?!"

The title character and hero of the movie, Casshern, is no longer a half-man, half-robot but a guy brought back to life with stem cells. Somehow this gives him superpowers. The main villain, rather than being a fearsome, killer robot as in the anime, is a guy that spontaneously emerged from the large pool of stem cells that brought the hero back to life. I almost couldn't believe the stupidity of what I was watching, hoping it was some kind of fever dream or Solanacae-induced hallucination, but no, this was the actual plot of the movie. I think I got up to get a snack at about the time the main villain, after discovering an abandoned battle-robot-making factory (apparently they just leave those things lying around) launched into a speech about how evil he was and how much he hated the world.

Thankfully, only Casshern and the main villains were altered, leaving the hordes of evil robots intact, the one thing this movie manages to do right. Incidentally, the sweet fight scenes, though few and far between, were the only thing that got me to sit through this whole two and a half hour pile of horseloaf. Two and a half hours. At least "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo" had the decency to last only eighty minutes.

Sadly, this film will not be utterly lost in the mists of time as it deserves, but will instead live on in film history as being Asia's first all-digital movie, shot on green-screens with digital cameras. Far superior is Hollywood's first all-digital film, "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow," a fun, mindless adventure-flick, also about robots, that I recommend anyone even remotely interested in seeing "Casshern" to go see instead.

## *Who doesn't love Christian Bale?*

**By Leighton Smith '09**
*Arts & Entertainment Writer*

Let's talk about Christian Bale. Who doesn't love this guy? Whether he's murdering prostitutes, dropping an unhealthy amount of weight for a role or singing while riding a horse, this actor brings "it" to each one of his performances.

Bale appeared in his first movie at age 13 when he was selected by Steven Spielberg for the 1987 film, "Empire of the Sun." After his debut, he landed several movie and TV roles, notably in Kenneth Branagh's "Henry V," in which he played Falstaff's Boy. Three years later, and with several strong performances under his belt, came "Newsies."

"Newsies" is a film set in New York that tells the story of the 1899 newsboys strike. Bale occupies the leading role of Jack Kelly, a complex character who is often torn between his past, his allegiance to the newsies, and the monetary lure of newspaper moguls. Although the film was a commercial disaster (one of Disney's poorest grossing live-action films ever), it has since gained a significant cult following, and was finally released on DVD in 2002. For anyone who doesn't think Christian Bale is the driving force behind this rise in popularity, just look at the rise in popularity of Christian Bale himself.

After a series of movies, TV appearances and voice-overs throughout the 1990s, Bale finally became a household name when he played Patrick Bateman in "American Psycho," the 2000 adaptation of the Bret Easton Ellis book of the same name. Due to its intense sexual content and graphic violence, the film experienced only minor success commercially, grossing just over $15 million at the box office. "American Psycho" did, however, earn much critical acclaim and established Bale as one of the premiere leading men in cinema.

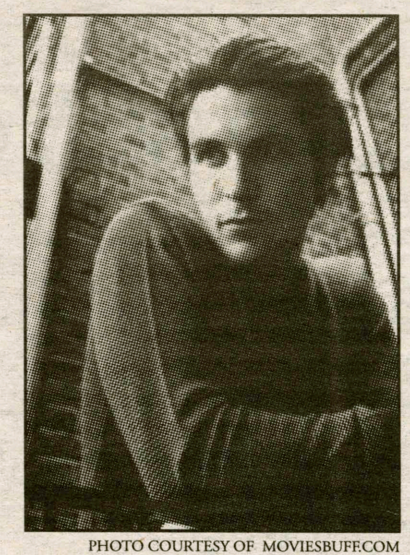


PHOTO COURTESY OF MOVIESBUFF.COM

**Christian Bale is one of Hollywood's hottest actors.**

The film also exemplifies Bale's tendency to take on complex or controversial characters. In the 1998 film, "Velvet Goldmine," Bale played a homosexual journalist.

Since "American Psycho," Bale has morphed his body for roles that would make any nutritionist shudder. Bale shed 60 pounds – 1/3 of his body weight – to play the sleep-deprived Trevor Reznik in "The Machinist" (2004). He put it all back on plus 20 pounds of muscle for his role as Bruce Wayne in "Batman Begins" (2005). Going on extreme diets and portraying homosexuals is all well and good, but playing a singing, dancing newsboy in "Newsies" and 10 years later being one of the hottest actors around is miraculous. Others have followed this same formula, though – just look at Tom Cruise. Or don't. Needless to say, Bale's efforts have proven him to be one of the most dedicated method actors around today.

For those of you looking to get your Christian Bale fix, you can find him in theaters now. He plays John Rolfe in "The New World," a drama about explorer John Smith and the English settlement of North America in the 17th century. I have not seen this movie yet, but I am sure it will be very good. And we all know why.

# Armor for Sleep is the real thing

**By Nicole Dietsche '09**
*Arts & Entertainment Writer*

In the world of music, there are the posers and then there are the real things. In this case, we have the real deal. Armor for Sleep is a four man emo band consisting of vocalist/guitarist Ben Jorgensen, guitarist PJ Decicco, bassist Anthony Dilonno,and drummer Nash Breen. The band has a unique, haunting sound and rich lyrics that have literary worth, rather than those of cookie-cutter bands.

Their debut album, "Dreams to Make Believe," was followed by their successful second album "What To Do When You Are Dead" in February of 2005 on Equal Vision Records. Armor for Sleep's sophomore album contains their two popular singles, "Car Underwater" and "The Truth About Heaven." Both of these songs, just like the rest of their songs, have catchy hooks and pulsing, ear-friendly guitar.

"Car Underwater" kicks off the album "What To Do When You Are Dead" and starts with distortion that actually sounds like you are underwater. The lyrics include lines like, "Believe the news I'm gone for good./ Call off the search. No one will know that I am down here/ And believe the note I left for you./ You can't turn back the clocks/ You can't pull me up from here so don't try./ I'm in a car underwater with time to kill/ Thinking back I forgot to tell you this:/ I didn't care that you left and abandoned me./ What hurts more is I would still die for you."

Following in their theme of endearing, heartfelt lyrics, the album continues with "The Truth About Heaven," whose sad lyrics are juxtaposed with fast guitar and drums that pulls at your heart strings and the corners of your lips at the same time, with lyrics like, "Found my way back in the dark tonight./ Couldn't wake up not right next to you/ I'd trade in forever to just hear you say / The sound of my name/ But that's not why I'm here/ I came out here to tell you/ It rains in heaven all day long/ I wanna find you so bad and let you know/ I'm miserable up here without you/ Miserable up here without you." Other memorable catchy songs off both albums are "Awkward Last Words," "Kind of Perfect," "Remember to Feel Real" and "All Warm."

PHOTO COURTESY OF EXCLAIM.CA

Touching on the literary merit of Armor for Sleep's music, there is consistent recurring imagery of winter, snow, death, heaven, love, and of course, sleep. Listening to their music is similar to being inside the dreams of a hopeless romantic. It sweeps you away to that part of your mind that only comes out when you are asleep. Most of Armor for Sleep's songs are love songs about a lost or unrequited love or how the singer is looking out for his love from heaven or from a distance. They are not afraid to write the songs that they want to, nor are they afraid to be different from the music that is on the radio right now. Despite their unique individuality, Armor for Sleep is still managing to get consistent rotation on MTV and Fuse.

Currently, Armor for Sleep is on tour with Boy's Night Out, Chiodos, and Action Reaction on Alternative Press's Invisible Sideshow tour. They have done extensive touring of the United States as well as the United Kingdom with bands such as Idiot Pilot, and Matchbook Romance (who will be at Hamilton on February 25. Look for more on Matchbook Romance in future articles).

This thought-provoking album, paired with the fact that Armor for Sleep is strongly backed by a huge fan base of overly dedicated kids, means that this band is one band that we will be seeing far in the future, developing their sound and growing their fan base. Armor for Sleep is a sentimental band that is definitely worth a listen. After a time or two, you too will be a member of that dedicated fan base, singing the words back at the concerts.

# Hamilton choir presents "Drood"

**By Michelle Reiser-Memmer**
*Performing Arts Coordinator*

The Department of Music presents the Hamilton College Choir in "Drood" at Wellin Hall in the Schambach Center for Music and the Performing Arts. The choir, under the direction of G. Roberts Kolb, will perform on Friday, February 3 and Saturday, February 4 at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, February 5 at 2 p.m.

The musical, written by Rupert Holmes, is a play-within-a-play that centers on the Music Hall Royale's production of an unfinished Dickens mystery. Notable musical numbers include "The Wage of Sin," "Perfect Strangers" and "Both Sides of the Coin."

The production culminates in the audience voting on a solution, which leads to an extremely unusual finale. The musical was the recipient of five Tony Awards for Musical, Book, Score, Director and Actor.

The principal cast members are students Winston Cook-Wilson, Chris Boveroux, Nick Fesette, Kristen Nielsen, Julianne Jaquith, Kim Craig, Dana Canelli, Allison Nichols, David Moroney, Peter Kopp, Ann Horwitz, Tom Morris, Rachel Cannon, Oriana Barros, Ellim Song, Phillip Hoying and Heather Montana.

A member of the Hamilton faculty since 1981, G. Roberts Kolb earned a master's at California State University at Fullerton and a D.M.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His doctoral dissertation on the music of the early 17th-century composer Guillaume Bouzignac was judged dissertation of the year 1984 in the field of choral music by the American Choral Directors Association.

Kolb is the director of choral activities at Hamilton and is conductor of the Hamilton College and Community Oratorio Society, as well as past conductor of the Syracuse Vocal Ensemble and Cayuga Vocal Ensemble. He is a contributing author to "Up Front: Becoming the Complete Choral Conductor." Kolb is a former holder of the Christian A. Johnson Excellence in Teaching Chair at Hamilton.

Tickets for this performance are $7 general admission, $5 for senior citizens and non-Hamilton students, and $3 for Hamilton students.

All seating is general admission. For more information or tickets, call the box office at (315) 859-4331, 1-4 p.m. weekdays.

# F.I.L.M series brings fantastic presentations

*from **F.I.L.M.**, page 18*

day exported around the world. Hubert Sauper's award-winning documentary explores this process and its implications: "In 'Darwin's Nightmare' I tried to transform the bizarre success story of a fish and the ephemeral boom around this 'fittest' animal into an ironic, frightening allegory for what is called the New World Order."

***Sunday, April 2, at 2 p.m.***

Jehane Noujaim presents "The Control Room" (2004).

Noujaim began shooting what was to become her feature documentary on Al Jazeera, the satellite news agency with 40 million viewers in the Arab world, during the two weeks leading up to the invasion of Iraq. This film is a remarkably intimate, revealing and often surprising window into Al Jazeera. As Noujaim cuts back and forth between American broadcasters and Al Jazeera, the film reveals the divergent ways the war was reported by Arabs and Westerners.

***Sunday, April 9, at 2 p.m.***

Chuck Workman presents "Precious Images" (1986) and other works.

Academy Award winner for "Precious Images" and master of montage, Chuck Workman will present and discuss examples of his "recyclings" of iconic moments from commercial film. If you've watched the Academy Awards shows during the past decade or so, or if you've watched Turner Classic Movies on television, you've seen Workman's entertaining, evocative montages of various dimensions of film history. Workman has also worked in advertising and has made movie trailers (for "Star Wars," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Paris, Texas"), documentaries ("Superstar," on Andy Warhol; "The Source," on the Beat Generation) and independent features.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTIFILM.NL

**Mira Nair's "Monsoon Wedding" will come to Hamilton on April 16th.**

***Monday, April 10, at 7 p.m.***

Stan Brakhage 2: "Light and Light."

Much of Brakhage's later career was focused on his attempt to use the movie camera to imaginatively explore the perceptual experience of light and the ways in which cinematic perception can assist in accessing something of the spirit. The following Brakhage films will be presented: "Mothlight" (1963), "The Text of Light" (1974), "The Dante Quartet" (1987) and "Commingled Containers" (1997).

***Tuesday, April 11, at 7 p.m.***

"Salaam Bombay" (1988) by Mira Nair.

Mira Nair's first narrative film details the lives of the children who live in the streets of Bombay. The main character is a runner for a tea shop in a neighborhood replete with prostitution and drug trade. He must save 500 rupees before he returns to his village. All the scenes were shot on location. Also, most of the actors were street urchins playing themselves. Salaam Bombay earned Nair Best New Director at Cannes and an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Film.

***Sunday, April 16, at 2 p.m.***

Mira Nair presents "Monsoon Wedding "(1991).

World-class director Mira Nair ("Mississippi Masala," "Salaam Bombay," "Vanity Fair") will visit campus, as the 2005-2006 Tolles lecturer. In "Monsoon Wedding," the extended Verma family travels from around the world to reunite in New Delhi for a last-minute arranged marriage. The film is a love song to the city of Delhi and a portrait of modern, cosmopolitan India. Nair will answer questions after the screening.

***Sunday, April 16 at 7 p.m.***

"Between Two Worlds: An Evening with Mira Nair," Tolles Lecturer. NOTE: THE LOCATION FOR THIS EVENT IS WELLIN HALL.

***Sunday, April 23, at 2 p.m.***

Shiho Kano presents recent film and video.

Young Japanese independent film and video artist Shiho Kano will present a program of her short films and videos, including "The Rocking Chair" (2000), "Incense" (2002) and "Rose-Colored Flower" (2002).

***Sunday, April 30, at 2 p.m.***

Shirin Neshat presents "Passage"(2001) and other films.

Shirin Neshat has been living in the United States since the Iranian revolution of 1979. Often working with a community of Iranian artists living in New York City, Neshat has dramatized her own experiences as an Iranian woman living in the West and her evolving consideration of her heritage in a series of two-screen gallery installations, and in a series of short films, including Passage, made as a collaboration with Philip Glass. Her recent films are adaptations of stories in Shahrnush Parsipur's "Women Without Men" (1998); they are the components of what will be her first feature film.

MacDonald, F.I.L.M.'s organizer, programmed film series for 20 years in the '80s and '90s in Utica. He taught at Utica College for many years and has been a visiting professor of film at Bard College and the University of Arizona. He has written many books and essays related to film including his newly released "A Critical Cinema 5."

For additional information or schedules, please call 859-4186 or e-mail smacdona@hamilton.edu.

# Science & Technology

## Professor Tewksbury gives first Geology Club lecture titled "What goes up *does* come down"

**by Anne Schlesinger '06**
*Science & Technology Writer*

Last Friday, 15 geology students gathered together in William R. Kenan Professor of Geosciences Barb Tewksbury's brand new lab to kick off the Geology Club's first weekly "Hot Topics and Geo Snacks." The series is organized by a committee of 11 students: Alicia Colabella '07, Amelia Conlon '07, Mary Beth Day '07, Tara Eckberg '08, Jordan Fischetti '08, Alisha Fowler '06, Colleen Granahan '08, Trevi Lough '08, Julia MacDougall '09, Mike Mortimer '07 and Keith Tyler '06.

Professor Tewksbury presented a short talk alluringly entitled, "Peanut Butter, Diamonds, and Earth Farts: What Goes up *Does* Come Down." She provided appropriate snacks: Nutter Butters and cheezits, which are conveniently diamond-shaped.

So, what do peanut butter, diamonds and earth farts have in common, if anything at all? The answer is carbon. While most diagrams of the carbon cycle illustrate the atmospheric and surficial processes that provide the carbon included in peanut butter, a *carbo*hydrate, they fail to address a substantial carbon reservoir: the earth's mantle. Professor Tewksbury decried this failure and exclaimed, "When you think about carbon, I want you to remember the mantle!"

Carbon is the fourth most abundant element in the solar system, and .1 weight percent of the lower mantle is made up of carbon. The mantle is continuously degassing this carbon into the atmosphere.

This is where the "earth farts" come in. Each time magma is erupted to the surface of the earth from the mantle, $CO_2$ that had been dissolved in magma under the surface of the earth is released as gas into the atmosphere.

What happens when it is released into a lake? Lake Nyos and Lake Monoun in Cameroon both sit in the craters of volcanoes. $CO_2$ from the mantle dissolves in magma and then rises into the deep, cold lake waters, where it is dissolved again. The $CO_2$ continues to accumulate at the bottom of the lake until the waters are saturated. There is little to no circulation in the lake, and when a wind-storm or landslide causes water movement, the $CO_2$ actually erupts (called a limnic eruption).

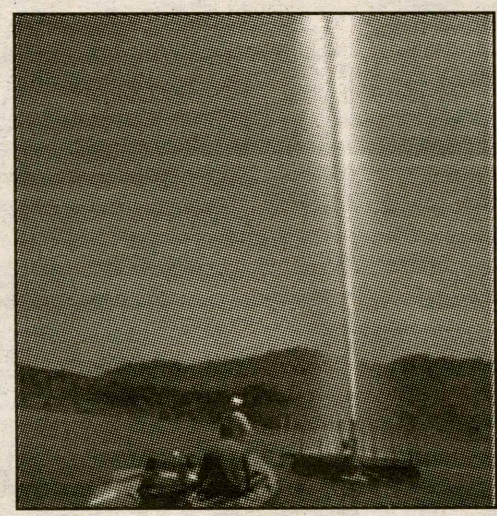


PHOTO COURTESY OF SCIENCEINAFRICA.CO.ZA

**Limnic eruption at Lake Nyos.**

This occurred at Lake Nyos on Aug. 26, 1986 on a devastating scale: the escaping $CO_2$, denser than the air around it, traveled down the mountain and asphyxiated everything in its path, affecting a 25km radius and killing 1700 people. A similar, smaller event had occurred at Lake Monoun two years earlier, killing several people as well.

Today, polyethylene pipes have been installed in an attempt to degas the lakes and pump the $CO_2$ to the surface. As it reaches the surface, the $CO_2$ continues to expand and a fountain of water sprays into the air. While these pipes help, in order to keep up with $CO_2$ accumulation at the bottom of the lake, eight more pipes need to be installed in Lake Nyos.

While these episodes are quite dramatic, as Professor Tewksbury pointed out, during the Cretaceous (144-65 million years ago), there was six to eight times the amount of $CO_2$ in the atmosphere, due in part to an amazing amount of volcanic activity. Increased levels of $CO_2$ in the atmosphere warmed the earth, leading to the production of organic matter, which accumulated in sediments and formed 60 percent of the world's oil.

The most widespread episode of kimberlite formation also occurred during the Cretaceous. Kimberlite pipes are intrusions of igneous rock that yield diamonds, crystals comprised entirely of carbon.

Many diamonds, however, are much older than the Cretaceous. Diamonds are only truly stable in the mantle, and evidence suggests that many diamonds nucleated from primordial mantle carbon. Or, in other words, carbon left over from the formation of our solar system. This means that some of these diamonds are *billions* of years old.

There have also been recent discoveries of nanodiamonds in meteorites that predate our solar system and were most likely created by vapor deposition in the corona of a supernova.

Some diamonds also form from crustal organic carbon. Carbon from the oceanic crust is subducted along with the crust and can be forced back up to the surface again by the processes of plate tectonics.

What goes down *does* come back up!

Today's Hot Topics and Geo Snacks topic will be presented at 3:30 p.m. in Science Center 1016 by Associate Professor of Geosciences Todd Rayne entitled "New Orleans: Past, Present, and Future." All are welcome, and, of course, there will be snacks!

## Decreased science funding affects young scientists

**by Laura Trubiano '07**
*Science & Technology Editor*

Where have all the researchers gone? As funding for science in the United States falls, young scientists in all fields are seeking jobs in other countries, where funding is more stable. According to a January 23 *Boston Globe* article, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) physics department accepted only 25 graduate students this year, down from 50 in recent years. The reason? Several job candidates have turned down the prestigious university in favor of work in other countries where funding for science is increasing instead of fluctuating as it is in the United States. "It was quite striking," said Marc Kastner, the head of the physics department at MIT, in the *Globe* article. "It used to be that a position at MIT was the best in the world, and now people are turning us down."

After decades of steady support for science funding that drew many young people into research fields, federal funds are now flat or declining in many areas. Researchers depend on grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other research agencies to fund their work, and currently they are finding it harder and harder to win these grants. However, the ones who are hurt the most by decreased funding and increased competition are young researchers trying to get started in their careers.

"If you have three NIH grants and you lose one, you tighten your belt a little bit. If you're junior faculty and you have one grant and you lose it, your career may be over," said Dr. Karen Antman, provost of the medical campus at Boston University, in the *Globe* article.

Many science advocates say the United States is losing its competitive edge by decreasing funding when China, India and other countries are bulking up science programs. In the 1950's, the launching of the Russian satellite Sputnik spurred interest and support in the United States for promoting science and technology. Today, although the need is still there, there is no concrete, tangible goal for Americans to rally around.

"This challenge is not as easy to get people mobilized to respond...but it is a series of trends that are going against us," said Senator Jeff Bingaman in a January 25 *Voice of America* article. The trends Bingaman refers to include low scores for American students in tests of general knowledge in math and science compared to students in other countries, especially India and China.

"If we don't really take seriously the rise of China and India…and what it is going to take for us to be competitive, you should assume that by the middle of the century your children and grandchildren will live in a country which is no longer the leading country in the world," said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich in a speech in April to the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

To try to counteract the lack of funding for young scientists, the NIH encourages grant reviewers to give their applications "special considerations" and has started a program to speed up the review process.

Decreased funding for research leads young students to leave America for countries where funding is more readily available, and in this way the United States is losing talented scientists. For new researchers just out of school, the availability of funding is crucial to break into their fields. Don Gibbons, a spokesman for Harvard Medical School, said in the *Globe* article that he worries that a "domino effect" will occur as young people see peers a few years ahead of them getting turned down for postdoctoral positions and grants, and be influenced to choose another career path. "Our concern is really generational," he said. "Are we going to lose a generation of the brightest scientists?"

## Researchers cite way to multiply blood stem cells

**by Laura Trubiano '07**
*Science & Technology Editor*

Biologists from the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, MA announced this week, in the journal Nature Medicine, that they had found a way to dramatically expand populations of blood stem cells. The researchers discovered how to multiply an adult blood stem cell 30-fold, which is ten times higher than anyone has achieved before, a discovery that could improve bone marrow transplants and make them more readily available.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HARVARD.EDU

**Researchers announced that they found a way to multiply blood stem cells. thirty-fold.**

Bone marrow transplants are denied to many patients because the cells that give the transplants regenerative power—blood stem cells—are very rare, and doctors have no way of substantially increasing their number before transplanting them into the patient. If the technique discovered at the Whitehead Institute, where researchers experimented with mice, can be adapted to humans, it would save thousands of patients who die each year while waiting for bone marrow transplants because of a lack of bone marrow donors.

Stem cells can make copies of themselves and also become more specialized cells, which means that they can replace damaged tissue. In a bone marrow transplant, a patient is given new blood stem cells the then replace all kinds of blood cells destroyed by chemotherapy or radiation.

The Whitehead team, led by Harvey F. Lodish, began their research based on the knowledge that in mice, as well as humans, there is a dramatic expansion in the number of blood cells near

see **Stem Cells**, page 21

# Two studies to collect DNA from one million volunteers

**by Laura Trubiano '07**
*SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR*

Two huge medical research projects, one in the United States and one in Britain, will soon be recruiting 500,000 volunteers each to donate DNA to study in unprecedented depth the age-old nature versus nurture question: how our genes and the environment interact over time to cause disease. The scale these projects hope to achieve is the largest in history, and, if all goes well, between the two projects researchers will collect the DNA of 1 million volunteers, reported a January 20 Newscientist.com article.

The British project, called Biobank, is funded by the UK Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust and the government health ministry and is due to start in the next few weeks. The American project, announced in 2004 by the National Human Genome Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, is still in the planning stages. By understanding the role of the environment in disease development, the results of these projects could one day lead to new treatments for disorders such as cancer, heart disease and asthma.

Of course, any project that involves the use of DNA brings criticism and questions about who should have access to personal medical details. By donating DNA, volunteers are revealing not only their medical past, but also any medical conditions that they are likely to suffer from in the future. To some, these studies are reminiscent of the situation in Iceland over five years ago, when the government allowed a company called Decode Genetics to commandeer the genetic, medical and family histories of the entire population of Iceland to be entered into a huge database. The project was declared unconstitutional after complaints that individuals had not given explicit consent.

Decode Genetics responded by launching more focused searches for genes linked to disease, for which it recruited volunteers, as the two current projects hope to do. Since then, over half of the Icelandic population has contributed DNA or medical histories to the projects, which have had great success. While the Icelandic studies focused on recruiting people who already had specific diseases, the American and British projects plan to recruit healthy individuals and wait to see which of them develop diseases.

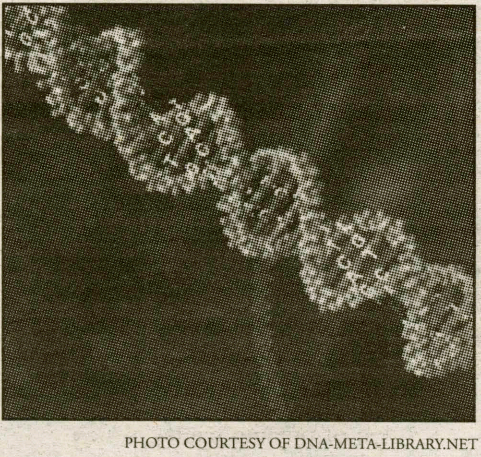


PHOTO COURTESY OF DNA-META-LIBRARY.NET

Because the studies will follow volunteers over a period of several years, a major difficulty lies in collecting reliable environmental data, such as subjects' diet, exercise habits and chemical exposure. If these details are not recorded correctly, the results of the study would not be valid. The Biobank project will rely on health records and diagnoses of family doctors to keep track of the subjects, as well as record body fat, blood pressure and weight, use lifestyle questionnaires and take blood and urine samples at the onset of the study. The organizers of the American study are considering the use of microchip devices, such as bracelets, to keep continuous, accurate records of heart rate. As the Newscientist.com article reported, they are even considering rigging cell phones to transmit data on physiology and diet.

Intensive data collection from volunteers could cause critics to argue that the volunteers' privacy is being invaded, as employment prospects and insurance rates may be at risk if results of future disease are revealed. Both studies plan to encrypt their data in such a way that it cannot be traced back to the original donor; however, the data will be available to other organizations that have received approval from an ethics board. In the United States, volunteers will be given the option of being told about any findings that affect their health. Biobank will not give out any information in hopes that volunteers will not be penalized by employers or insurance companies.

Even when accounting for privacy fears, some critics claim that the studies will never achieve their goals. "The Biobank project is based on the flawed idea that you have a single gene combining with a single environmental factor leading to a single disease," said Helen Wallace of the UK-based lobby group GeneWatch, quoted in the Newscientist.com article. "It is dangerous to assume that the project will deliver major benefits for health." Other critics in the medical research fields fear that the extreme costs of the studies will take away from funding for other projects, and that there is no guarantee they will yield any useful results.

# Blood stem cell discovery

*from* ***Stem Cells,*** *page 20*

the liver while the mouse is developing in the womb. The researchers grew blood stem cells in culture with different types of liver cells until they found cells that prompted the blood stem cells to multiply. They discovered that these particular cells produced growth factors that caused the blood stem cells to multiply. The team then experimented with different protein cocktails to find the most successful combination.

One of the most immediate applications of this discovery would be to use blood from umbilical cords at birth as an alternative source of stem cells for patients needing transplants. Cord blood has blood stem cells, but not enough to help sustain an adult's blood supply. If doctors could quickly multiply these cells, they could be used in more transplants.

This discovery is also very important for the field of adult stem cell research. While adult stem cells are free of the ethical concerns surrounding the use of embryonic stem cells, they do not have the ability to become any cell in the body, as embryonic stem cells do. Adult stem cells also tend to differentiate into mature tissue as soon as they are isolated from the body, making it difficult to multiply them in the laboratory. The Whitehead research team found a way to do this, therefore creating a new, very beneficial use for adult stem cells.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MORTOLOGY.ORG

Another area this finding could be valuable is in gene therapy. With gene therapy, a genetic defect is corrected by administering a healthy version of the gene to the patient. With this method, doctors could correct genetic problems in blood stem cells and put the repaired cells in the body, where they would create healthy blood cells.

The research teams that worked on this project are now collaborating with researchers at Lund University in Sweden to repeat these results using human cord blood.

---

# NASA launches first-ever mission to study Pluto

**by Anne Schlesinger '06**
*SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY WRITER*

Last Friday, the fastest spacecraft ever launched began a 10 year, 3-billion mile journey to Pluto from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. NASA's New Horizons spacecraft, launched from a Lockheed Martin Atlas 5 Rocket, will reach an amazing 47,000 mph on the first voyage ever to Pluto.

The successful launch followed on the heels of two earlier attempts, one foiled by weather and the other by a power outage. Fourty-three minutes after the launch, New Horizons separated from all three booster rockets and continued on at 36,000 mph, scheduled to pass by the moon 9 hours later, according to CNN.com. It took Apollo 11 three *days* to reach the moon.

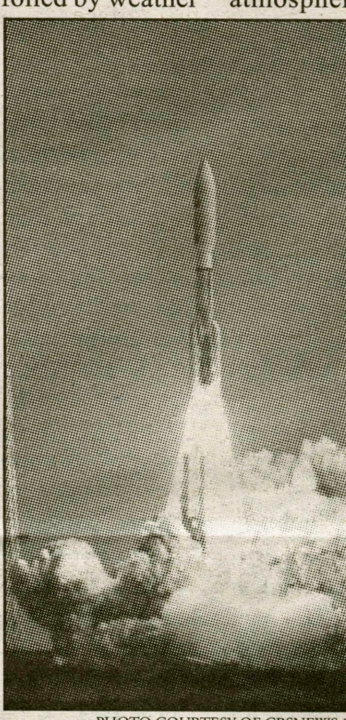


PHOTO COURTESY OF CBSNEWS.COM

**NASA's new Horizons spacecraft was launched from Cape Canaveral last Friday on the first voyage ever to Pluto.**

The next stop on the spacecraft's list is Jupiter. If all goes as planned, the spacecraft will reach Jupiter's immense gravitational field in 13 months, reported Warren E. Leary of the *New York Times*. The gravitational field will slingshot the spacecraft around Jupiter, increasing its speed to 47,000 mph as it makes its way to Pluto.

The probe will get as close as 6,200 miles from Pluto's surface, enabling it to take the first ever close-up images of Pluto's surface and its moon, Charon. The probe will also take images of the Kuiper Belt, which consists of icy, rocky bodies thought to be remnants of the solar system's creation 4.6 billion years ago. Scientists hope that these images will yield information on the formation of our solar system.

NASA Administrator Michael Griffin stated, "It is fantastically interesting to me to have a chance maybe within my lifetime for scientists to see up-close what those objects look like and to begin our reconnaissance of that region of space," according to CNN.com. Director of NASA's Solar System Division Andrew Dantzler, quoted in *The Boston Globe,* expressed similar excitement, "Pluto is a treasure trove of scientific information waiting to be discovered,"

Of course, this scientific information would not be available without certain equipment on board. New Horizons carries "three cameras for visible-light, infrared, and ultraviolet images, as well as three spectrometers to study the composition and temperatures of Pluto's thin atmosphere and surface features," reported the *New York Times*. During most of the trip, these instruments will be in electronic hibernation in order to conserve energy. A dust counter made by students of the University of Boulder at Colorado is on board and will be the only instrument not to hibernate. The spacecraft carries the ashes of Clyde W. Tombaugh, who discovered Pluto in 1930.

While many rejoiced as New Horizons soared into space, some criticized NASA's use of 24 pounds of plutonium-238 for the spacecraft's power source. NASA did file an environmental impact statement, reporting a 1-in-620 chance of an accident occurring upon lift-off that would release plutonium into the environment. Karl Grossman, author of "The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat to Our Planet," did not find these statistics satisfactory, reported CNN.com. He asserted, "If it's 2 percent or it's 6 percent or it's 20% or if it's 100%, when you're talking plutonium, you're talking about the most radioactive substance known."

The New Horizons scientists, however, affirm our society will garner such a wealth of knowledge from this launch that the benefits far outweigh the risks, noted CNN.com. Project scientist Hal Weaver explained that "the exploration of space, the detailed study of the planets, including Pluto and the Kuiper Belt, are going to be some of the things that people look back on as achievements of our civilization."

# Ski team takes to the slopes

PHOTO BY GRANT FULLMAN '09

**by Nick Rockwell '08**
*SPORTS EDITOR*

Nobody is more excited about the return to "normal" winter weather here on the Hill than the Hamilton College Alpine Skiing team. Although the group is still recognized as a club sport, this year the team has picked up considerable man-power and currently touts eight freshman on the men's and women's varsity rosters. Last weekend the team traveled to Lake Placid, New York where they competed in the Clarkson Invitational at Whiteface Mountain. The men finished fourth overall and the women took third.

However, the story from Whiteface is the exceptional performance from many of the freshman, particularly Greg Fullman and Rebecca Yaguda. Both racers finished first overall (combined finishes of giant slalom and slalom). Fullman hails from Duanesburg, New York and has raced with the Gore Mountain Ski team in the past; Yaguda is from Norwich, Vermont and raced with Ford Sayre Academy on the weekends. Captain Matt Stewart '06 has been leading the team for the past three years.

The stiff competition included racers from Clarkson, Colgate, USMA, Skidmore, RPI, University of Albany and Union. These schools along with Hamilton comprise the Adirondack division of the United States Ski and Snowboard Association. Clarkson boasts the only varsity program of the group although many teams are hoping to change that soon.

This year, ski racers have turned out in record numbers for Stewart's squad. Currently there are forty-eight skiers on the roster, thirty-three of whom attended the Whiteface race last weekend. About the mountain itself, Stewart said, "Whiteface is always our most challenging mountain and this weekend was no different. The combination of terrain and weather usually makes for icy courses." This weekend's weather was certainly unpredictable in Lake Placid. On Saturday, for the giant slalom races, it was rainy and warm. Then the temperature plummeted Saturday night, creating icy conditions for Sunday's slalom races.

The team's ultimate goal is to qualify for the Regional competition at the end of the season. In order to do so, the men must finish in the top four teams, while the women need to be top three. Since Whiteface was the first race of the season, the men and women currently hold the last spots if Regionals were to begin tomorrow. However, the year is young and there are still four more races. This weekend the team will host its opponents at nearby Toggenburg Mountain.

Stewart is especially thrilled with the potential of his freshman, noting that "the core of first-years, especially Rebecca Yaguda, Greg Fullman and Jen Milne, will give Hamilton a competitive team for the next several years. Other important first-years include Matt Prescottano, Will Caffry and Cameron Tudhope. I trust that our renewed competitiveness will attract more strong skiers to our team and bring positive attention to the school's athletic program." Perhaps the team's success can help it become a varsity sport in the future.

# *Men's track beats Nazareth*

**by Doug Paetzell '09**
*SPORTS WRITER*

The Hamilton College men's track and field team devastated Nazareth College last Saturday by winning 111-22. This performance proved impressive as the Continental runners won nearly every race and field event.

Due to a long winter break, the track and field athletes faced many difficulties. Runners had to train on their own and go for weeks without competition. In addition, Hamilton's indoor track facilities prove difficult to run and to train on. Facing these challenges, there was some nervousness in the team prior to Saturday's meet.

Despite these factors, Hamilton's team displayed incredible performances. Co-captain Jesse Gaylord '06, who was named a Liberty League Athlete of the Week, won the 400-meter dash with a time of 53.75 seconds. Tidelco Ductan '09, another runner named as a Liberty League Athlete of the Week, won the triple jump with a distance of 13.71 meters. Ductan also proved to be a key component in winning the 4 x 200 meter relay with a time of 1:37.31. Cameron Gaylord '09 added points to Hamilton's victory by winning the 800-meter run in 2:08.80. In the field events, Bill Kearny '08 won the weight throw with a distance of 11.97 meters and also won the shot put event with a throw of 12.66.

After Hamilton's win against Nazareth, the runners are ready for tougher competition. "It's always great to notch a win on your belt, but the biggest thing that we took away from the Nazareth meet was a good day of hard work and a sense that we are ready to take our game to the next level," commented Gaylord.

"It's early in the season and performances will be improving as guys get increasingly tougher workouts," said co-captain Kyle Graham '06.

While Hamilton has proved its strength on the playing field, the athletes showed they work hard in meets and practices, both individually and as a team. "Track is a team sport, but each team member has to contribute to our team's success and the only way to do that is to set personal goals and follow through to get the job done," asserted Graham.

Gaylord added, "Oprah Winfrey once said 'Running is the greatest metaphor for life because you get out of it what you put in.'" Keeping this thought in mind, the team looks to be very successful.

In addition to their current training, the track and field athletes feel there are other aspects of their performances they need to focus on. "I think most of our team has room for improvement in terms of mental focus going into the meets," declared Graham. He continued, "Treating each meet like a championship competition brings out one's best performance."

The team hopes to improve on their performances in their next meet this Saturday at Colgate. The track and field athletes are excited for this meet because they will have the chance to compete on a better surface and the level of competition will be much higher. Captain Jesse Gaylord predicts, "Colgate will be a break out meet for much of the team." He added, "This meet usually proves to be one of our best of the season and usually lays the foundation for our later season meets."

# Beat the Experts

**Beat the "Experts" is by no means associated with organized gambling on professional or college athletics. Each week, we will pick several games in which to choose winners, and we will have a special guest pick winners as well.**

| | Nick Rockwell<br>*Spectator*<br>Sports Editor | Eileen Starrett<br>*Spectator*<br>Sports Editor | Ian Mandel<br>*Spectator*<br>Senior Editor | Emma Furman<br>*Spectator*<br>Editor-in-Chief | Pat VanGrinsven<br>Sophomore<br>Soccer Player |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Season Record:** | **6-6** | **0-0** | **8-4** | **5-7** | |
| Men's NCAA Basketball | | | | | |
| Virginia Tech @ Wake Forest, 1/28 | Wake | Wake | Wake | VA Tech | Wake |
| OK State @ Texas Tech, 1/28 | Texas Tech | Texas Tech | Texas Tech | OK State | Texas Tech |
| #10 Pitt @ #1 UConn, 1/31 | UConn | UConn | UConn | UConn | UConn |
| Michigan @ Penn State, 2/1 | Michigan | Michigan | Michigan | Penn State | Michigan |
| NBA | | | | | |
| NY Knicks @ Philadelphia, 1/28 | Philly | Knicks | Knicks | Knicks | Philly |
| Denver @ LA Clippers, 1/28 | LA | Denver | LA | Denver | Denver |
| Phoenix @ Cleveland, 1/29 | Cleveland | Cleveland | Phoenix | Phoenix | Phoenix |
| NHL | | | | | |
| Detroit @ Dallas, 1/28 | Detroit | Detroit | Dallas | Detroit | Detroit |
| Tampa Bay @ Philadelphia, 1/28 | Tampa Bay | Philly | Philly | Philly | Philly |
| Montreal @ Toronto, 1/28 | Toronto | Toronto | Toronto | Montreal | Montreal |

# Men's hockey sweeps weekend; falls to Elmira

**by TJ Reynolds '07**
*SPORTS WRITER*

After two huge wins last weekend and a heartbreaking overtime loss to Elmira on Tuesday night, the men's hockey team remains positive as they head into this weekend with games against Tufts and Connecticut College. The two wins against Castleton State and Skidmore gave the Continentals (6-5-0 NESCAC, 7-7-1 overall) a much needed four points and placed them fifth in the conference.

Last Friday night, the Continentals traveled to Rutland, Vermont to take on the Spartans of Castleton State. Castleton scored first, taking advantage of a power play just 2:26 into the game. With four minutes gone in the first period, Kyle Rouston '09 scored to tie the game. Just sixty-three seconds later, Travis Blood '09 scored his first career goal to give the Continentals the lead which they would not relinquish for the remainder of the game. Gus Katsuras '09 assisted on both goals to extend his point streak to eight games.

Halfway through the first period, Mike Hayes '06 scored his second goal of the season. The Conts scored their fourth unanswered goal as Erick Kalio '06 put in his ninth of the season. Castleton State would score again on a power play in the third, but any chance of a comeback would soon be thwarted with the clinching goal from Katsuras. Matt Crowson '09 was stingy between the pipes and improved his record to 2-2 with 25 saves.

The buff and blue then traveled to Saratoga Springs on Saturday to take on Skidmore. Within the first seven minutes of play the Continentals scored three goals, jumping quickly to a 3-0 lead. Skidmore, however, did not cower from the early deficit and scored two goals to close out the first period.

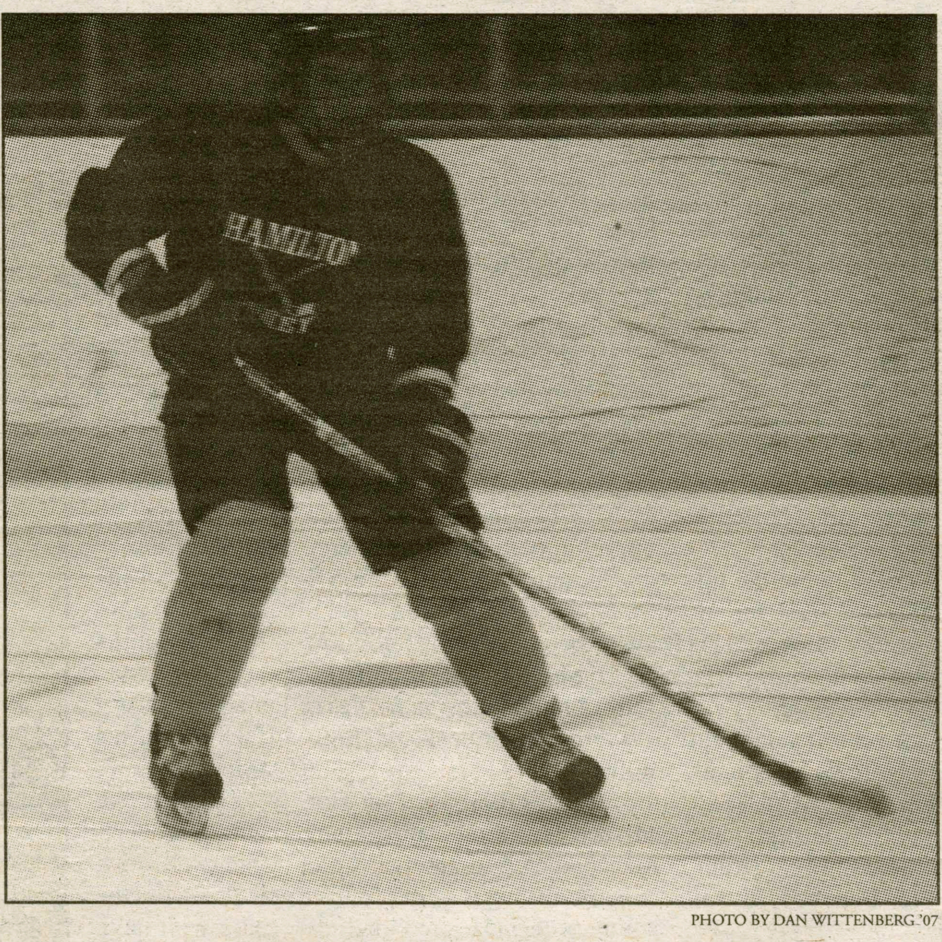


PHOTO BY DAN WITTENBERG '07

The second period held both teams scoreless and Skidmore struck again early in the third to tie the game at 3-3. With a little over five minutes remaining in the game, and after forty nine minutes of scoreless play, Chris Clarkson '07 scored his third goal of the season. Skidmore pulled their goalie with a little over a minute left and quickly found themselves with a 6 on 4 advantage as Hamilton was called on a roughing penalty. Clarkson's goal, on assists from seniors Erik Kalio and Josh Benson, proved to be the game winner as Hamilton's defense shut down Skidmore's two man advantage to close out the game.

Gabe Tash '06 had 29 saves and improved his record to 5-4-1 on the season. Andrew Decristoforo '08 had another strong performance as he piled up his second multi-goal game in Hamilton's last six.

On Tuesday night, the team traveled to Elmira where the Soaring Eagles had won the last six out of seven meetings between the two schools. Despite a phenomenal effort in goal from Tash, the Continentals fell in overtime, 2-1. Katsuras scored the 70th goal of his career to send the game into the extra frame. Overtime, however, only lasted forty-four seconds as Elmira took advantage as Hamilton committed its seventh penalty; Andrew Morris slipped in the game winner for the Soaring Eagles.

The Continentals are in agreement that they are capable of playing better hockey than what they have shown this season and are not looking past either Tufts or Connecticut College this weekend.

Senior forward Mike Hayes said, "Last year we found out the hard way that there is no such thing as an 'easy' four points and we dropped both of these games on the road. Both of these programs have come a long way and have been competitive all year long. We'll have to bring a great effort. At home, at this point in the year, these are must win games if we expect to compete for a NESCAC crown."

This is clearly a pivotal weekend for men's hockey as they head into the final stretch of the regular season. The team is focused on building upon the solid efforts they put together this past weekend. The Continentals hope to start off the final stage of the season with a win against the Tufts Jumbos tonight in Sage Rink at 7 p.m. and another tomorrow against the Camels of Connecticut College at 3 p.m.

---

HAMILTON
21
BASKETBALL

PHOTO BY DAN WITTENBERG '07

# Women's bball splits

**by Eileen Starrett '07**
*SPORTS EDITOR*

Last weekend, the women's basketball team traveled to Union College and Skidmore College and split the games, emerging with one win and one loss.

In the team's game versus Union, Pumla Sathula '08 was again the team's scoring leader with 14 points. Laura Wetmore '09 began her streak of magnificent play with a great showing off of the bench with 13 points, but the team still lost 84-53 versus host Union College. Madelyn McGuinnis '09 contributed seven points, a season-high nine rebounds and two blocked shots in the loss.

Versus Skidmore, the team played far better. In a 49-33 win over their hosts, the Continentals enjoyed a league victory. Captain Jessie Pisegna '06 showed her athleticism with 9 points and 7 rebounds from a reserve position. Sydney Fasulo '09 scored a game-high 13 points and pulled down 8 rebounds to lead the team. The difference in the Skidmore game was the team's defense: Skidmore had 26 turnovers that the Continentals converted to 22 points.

More recently, Hamilton hosted William Smith in another league game. Wetmore scored a season-high 19 points, but the Continentals lost 76-67 in a tough game. Captains Pisegna and Erin Daugherty '06 led the team by example. Pisegna had a season-high 10 points and Daugherty had 8 assists and 5 steals. Fasulo contributed with 6 rebounds and 10 solid points.

This weekend, the Continentals host Clarkson on Friday and St. Lawrence on Saturday. Look for the Continentals to improve their 2-3 league record (5-9 overall) while at home.

Clarkson is 4-12 so far this season which bodes well for the Continentals. Clarkson is led by Erika Fritjofson who is averging 10 points per game. However, if the Continentals keep up their defense and manage to convert turnovers to points, the game could go in their favor.

Unlike Clarkson, St. Lawrence is a force to reckoned with in the Liberty League. St. Lawrence is 11-5 for the year and 5-0 in the Liberty League. St. Lawrence is led by Nora Curley who is averaging 11 points per game so far this season. Hopefully the Continentals will emerge from the weekend with two league wins under their belt.

---

# *Women's hockey takes Trintiy, 8-2*

**by John Cloonan '07**
*SPORTS WRITER*

After returning from a long and tiresome road trip, the Lady Continentals have returned the rage to the sage. Over the last three games, Hamilton has outscored their opponents 18 to 6, and has displayed extremely stingy defense. Against Trinity College last weekend, the Conts outshot the Bantams, 79-33 over two games. Wednesday's hard fought game against RIT again left them with an advantage of 29-20 shots. This recent winning streak has bumped the women up into the fifth spot of their division, and they're not done yet.

Team powerhouse Zoe Baldwin '06 kicked off the weekend with a stellar performance. With two goals and three assists, Baldwin completed a five point game, which she hadn't accomplished since facing the Bantams back in 2004. Following the 8-2 win on Friday night, the Conts picked up some scoring help from Kerry Leonard '07 to repeat on Saturday. Leonard also produced a five point game with two goals and three assists of her own. This helped to establish the ensuing 7-2 victory.

Controlling the ice all weekend with two dominant wins, the Continentals sent a message to the rest of the league demanding respect. Any doubts of their conviction were laid to rest Wednesday night, when Taylor Brady '08 led the Conts to a 3-2 victory over RIT. This non-league victory didn't help the ladies in their divisional playoff hopes, but it definitely showed the heart and effort this team retains.

Hamilton will return to New England Small College Athletic Conference play tonight, when they travel to New London, Connecticut to take on Connecticut College at 7 p.m. If the past few games are any indication of what is to come, the Camels have a long game ahead of them.

A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY Volume XXXXVI Number 2

# Spectator Sports

January 27, 2006

## Swimming & diving prepares for NESCACs

**by Meaghan LaVangie '09**
*SPORTS WRITER*

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams suffered a tough loss in their home meet against Amherst last weekend. After previously falling to Middlebury on the road, the team was looking to bounce back against Amherst, which has a very talented team.

Last week, Head Coach T.J. Davis said that "Middlebury was a challenging meet and the Panthers are a talented squad. I know that as a team we are mentally tough and that will be one of our biggest assets as we move through this part of the season. Amherst is a worthy foe whom we expect to bring the best out in us both individually and as a team." Amherst certainly did prove worthy as the Lord Jeffs downed both the men's and women's teams.

However, Coach Davis has very high expectations for his team. One goal is to win a NESCAC Championship. Coach Davis commented on his expectations for future races and challengers: "I know there will be many great races and also look forward to having a 'dress-rehearsal' for some very fast swimming at the NESCAC championship meets in February."

Although the NESCAC championship meet isn't until late February, the team has experience in playoff like situations. They finished third overall in the Liberty League Championships hosted by Rensselaer on December 3.

Coach Davis noted the importance of ample rest for his swimmers so that they will be able to swim well during NESCAC Championships. As the middle of the season approaches, limiting injuries is crucial. Coach Davis said, "Right now the swimmers, by design, have done some incredibly hard training; they are tired, sore and in need of rest."

Captain Mark Hodges '07 of the men's swimming and diving team also shared some of their team goals for the season. He said, "Some of the team's short term goals include keeping a positive outlook on the season, getting a win before NESCACs, continuing to train hard, and the most important goal is to have a great taper. The men's team is a small team with amazing potential. I am very excited to see what we can do at NESCACs."

Both the women's and men's teams traveled to Coral Springs, Florida over Christmas break. Captain Christian Warner '07 of the men's team said, "the training trip to Florida was a great opportunity to come together as a team and prepare for the NESCAC championship. Getting away from the snow and training in a high-quality facility is a refreshing change which helps us get through our peak conditioning period."

Hodges remarked, "in Florida we had two competitions. We competed in an open water mile swim. I was very proud of the team because it was optional and almost everyone chose to compete. Many swimmers had never swum in an open water competition before and I was very pleased with the turnout."

Fellow captain Michael Salmon '06 also added, "our Florida trip provided the team with hard training sets in both long and short course meter pools. The divers trained at a world class facility and competed in the Coral Springs Diving Invitational."

Women's captain Chelsea Fellows-Swenson '06 also made remarks about the good team chemistry for the women's team. She said, "as a team, we get along amazingly well which isn't always the case with large teams that have long seasons; we are also encouraging towards one another and push each other to do our best."

Both teams will hit the road this weekend and travel to Schenectady, New York for a meet with Union College. The Dutchmen have a solid women's team, but the men's has not won recently.

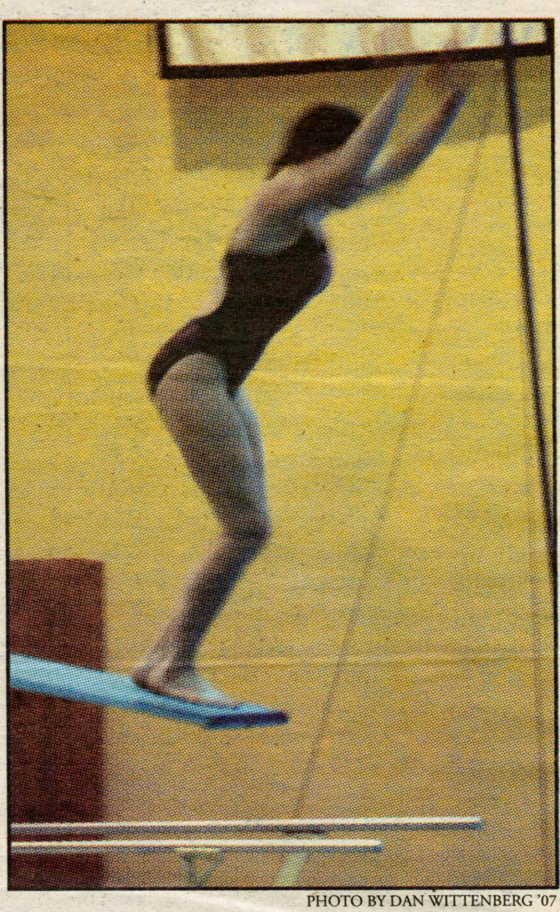


PHOTO BY DAN WITTENBERG '07

## Men's basketball loses nail-biter to Williams

### Jones, Welchons score in double-digits; crucial game vs. #1 St. Lawrence this Saturday at home

PHOTO BY DAN WITTENBERG '07

**Nick Jones drives to the hoop during practice. The Continentals will host two Liberty League rivals this weekend.**

**by Jack Maloney '08**
*SPORTS WRITER*

With another week of the season gone, the Hamilton men's basketball team stands at 12-3. Two big league wins against Union and Skidmore helped Hamilton take sole possession of second place in the Liberty League behind St. Lawrence. However, with a tough loss to non-league opponent Williams, the team must battle back and prepare for another important league weekend.

Hamilton experienced one of their harder fought victories of the season against Union. While the Continentals never trailed, Union kept the score within a few points for the entire game until it ended at 68-65.

Tri-Captain Phil Valenti '06 continued his strong play leading the team with 13 points. The balance of Hamilton's offensive attack was also impressive. Nick Jones '07, Tsakane Ngobeni '07 and tri-captain Tim Welchons '06 all finished with double-digit point totals. Ngobeni also had a career-high six assists in the win. The team looked to carry this momentum into their game the following night when they traveled to Skidmore.

One of the main stories in the dominating 82-48 victory over the Skidmore Thoroughbreds was the play of Harlee Wood '09. The freshman standout came off the bench to score a game-high 14 points in just 14 minutes of action.

Valenti finished with 10 points making it eight straight games in which he cracked the double-digit mark. Ngobeni and captain Staunton Peck '06 both ended with 9 points. Having successfully disposed of both league opponents, the Continentals were geared up to take on Williams College Tuesday night in the Scott Field House.

Williams came in at a very solid 14-4 and promised to be one of Hamilton's hardest challenges to date. The game proved to be a nail-biter from start to finish. Williams took an early lead and kept it into the second half. Hamilton, however, had no intentions of letting the Ephs walk away with the easy win and came roaring back in the second half.

Jones led the team in scoring with 17 points. Giorgi Chavleishvili '08 finished with 12 points in a strong effort. Ngobeni and Welchons each had solid games finishing with 10 and 13 points, respectively. However, Williams made the big shots when they had to, and just barely escaped defeat with a 68-65 win.

One player on the Continental team deserves the utmost respect for the tough and thankless role he has played his entire career. When the game is over, everyone knows that Staunton Peck has left it all on the court. Tuesday night he finished with 11 rebounds. It seemed as though he was everywhere the ball was. With the leadership of Peck, along with Valenti and Welchons, the seniors should keep Hamilton in every game. Senior leadership has been one thing that the Continentals are certainly not short of.

As the team puts the tough loss behind them, they can look forward to two Liberty League opponents this weekend at home. They start with Clarkson tonight at 8 p.m.

However, league leader St. Lawrence comes to Clinton Saturday afternoon for a huge match-up. Tip-off is scheduled for 4 p.m. With a sweep of these two teams the Continentals will be right back in the driver's seat where they belong. Hamilton students, faculty and staff should turn out in good numbers to provide support for the squad.